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RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

THE terrible accidents that have lately taken place on several lines of railway ought, at last, to have the effect of awakening railway directors to some sense of their responsibility. Judging from the past, however, we can scarcely believe that they will, of their own accord, take the proper

measures for promoting the safety of the public, and the time has now come when no option ought to be left them in that respect. We know how injurious it is to the best interests of commerce that Government should interfere in matters of private enterprise; at least, we know on what very slight provocation that argument can be employed.

Liberty is, no doubt, a very precious thing, but it may be abused; and liberty to smash the public with comparative impunity is a privilege by which railway directors have been allowed to profit too long. It is now about six months since Sir Charles Phipps, by command of her Majesty, wrote a very admirable letter to the directors of our railways, expressing her



"DIVIDED ATTENTION."—(FROM THE PICTURE, BY W. LUCAS, IN THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

Majesty's hope that they would consider carefully every means of guarding against accidents—"misfortunes," said the letter, "which are not at all the necessary accompaniments of railway travelling." This is precisely what it was desirable to impress upon the directors, who are in the habit of defending their unjustifiable negligence by maintaining that accidents

are unavoidable, that a certain number are sure to take place in the course of each year, and, finally, that, as railway travelling is, in spite of all that may be said against it, the safest mode of travelling yet discovered, no one has a right to grumble. We believe the statistics of the Board of Trade do indeed show that only one traveller out of 16,000,000 gets

killed, and only one out of 315,000 injured. Nevertheless, a certain number of disasters take place every year, which, in the words of her Majesty's letter, "are not at all the necessary accompaniments of railway travelling;" and a demonstration by statistics, that only a very small proportion of travellers get crushed to death, does not interfere with the fact that a

railway collision is a very terrible thing, which, as far as it can be shown to be preventible, it is a crime not to prevent. Mr. Milner Gibson, in a deadly-lively speech on the subject of railway accidents, declared the other night that he was only astonished at their taking place so seldom. Victims of the Christmas-box system generally console themselves by reflecting that Christmas does not come very often; and if Mr. Milner Gibson found himself in a railway train exposed to the danger of a collision he would no doubt quiet himself with a similar thought. Very few people are killed, or even maimed, through railway accidents; but what if you yourself happen to be one of the unlucky ones? Is it any satisfaction to you to know that you are only one in 315,000, and that 314,999 other travellers have received no injury?

To whom does it ever occur when an unhappy wretch has been bitten by a mad dog that, after all, hydrophobia attacks only one in so many hundred thousand of the English population? Hydrophobia is a fearful thing in itself. So are railway accidents; and, instead of explaining that, after all, they do not occur very often, members of Parliament who undertake to discuss the matter should consider whether, and to what extent, efficient precautions can be taken against them. A great many people go to sea every year without being shipwrecked, and men who know as little about navigation as Mr. Milner Gibson seems to do about the management of railways, are perhaps surprised that the number of ships lost in the course of a year is not greater than it actually is. A captain is obliged, all the same, to take certain precautions before leaving harbour, and in the naval service he is tried by court-martial if his ship comes to grief, and this without any reference to the annual losses at sea, as estimated by the authors of statistical tables. "Can philosophy give me back my child?" asks the bereaved philosopher in "Rasselas." "Can statistics give me back my leg?" might be asked by a mutilated traveller, assured by the officials of the Board of Trade that the mishap of which he is complaining falls to the lot of only one traveller in so many hundred thousand.

Nearly all railway accidents are caused by the difficulty of stopping the locomotive at very short notice. In the recent catastrophe on the Great Western the rails were loose; but the train did not go off the line until after the driver had for some little time made vain endeavours to stop the engine. On the South-Eastern the rails had been taken up where the accident occurred; but danger was signalled, though at a very short distance, and if the engine could have been pulled up as suddenly as a horse could going at the same rate no evil consequences would have ensued. If a horse were to run away with his rider and fall over a precipice no one would say that the precipice had caused his fall. That result would be explained by the rider's inability to stop the animal. So on railways, almost every accident that takes place—indeed, there has scarcely been an exception to this rule—is caused by the inability of the engine-driver to stop the engine. Larger, more efficient, and better paid staffs of subordinates ought, no doubt, to be engaged; directors ought to be held responsible for accidents as directors and printers of newspapers are held responsible for the publication of libels, whether accidental (as may sometimes be the case) or not. But precautions of this kind will not have any great effect in diminishing the number of accidents unless the adoption of some really efficient system of breaks be enforced. For if the most perfect break imaginable were to be invented we do not believe that railway directors would make any use of it unless a healthy fear of fine and imprisonment compelled them to do so. The proper course for the Government to pursue would be to insist upon railway directors taking every possible means for placing the engine under the control of the driver, just as, in factories, it obliges the proprietors to fence their machinery. This would cause a great outcry on the part of the directors; but no one ought to mind that. The only thing to consider is whether the kind of break desired can be found, and there is certainly one such, that may be seen in action any day, at the Polytechnic Institution—a break which, according to a description of it published in the *Mining Journal*, "brings a heavily-laden train, running down a greatly-inclined model railway, to a dead stand in from half to three fourths the length of a carriage." Nor is this all. Mr. Boulet, the inventor of the system in question, "finds that, where the breaks are applied to three carriages in a train of eight, he can at all times ensure pulling up in the space we (the *Mining Journal*) have mentioned, and that, too, without sufficient concussion to break a couple of glasses placed beside each other."

Such a break as this would render the great majority of railway accidents impossible, a result which never could be ensured by any amount of attention on the part of signalmen. Even if signals could be exchanged by telegraph from station to station, this would not prevent the worst collisions of all—those which are caused by the meeting of two trains travelling in contrary directions through an accidental shifting of one of them on to the wrong line. To punish a careless pointsman or signalman may sometimes satisfy the requirements of justice, but it does very little towards increasing the safety of the public. We believe railway servants for the most part do their duty honestly enough. But they are frequently both overworked and underpaid, and for this the directors, who think only of their dividends, are responsible. However, with the best organised service of officials in the world, it will be impossible to prevent a certain number of collisions, unless some such break as the one we have spoken of be adopted. The driver must be enabled to stop the engine. All the recent terrible accidents have been caused by the engine running away with the driver.

"DIVIDED ATTENTION."

THIS is just one of those pictures which, without any pretension to high art, finds universal favour with the public; for, in good truth, the public—apart from the connoisseurs, the critics, and the dealers—have been a little overdone with very high art for a long time past, and delights to refresh itself by having recourse to a little nature for a decided change. If anybody should think that the great painters who evolve recondite pictures out of their own inner consciousness have it all their own way, it would be worth while for him to visit the Royal Academy, or that pleasant gallery where the picture from which our Engraving is taken has been exhibited, and watch the people, and listen to their comments, as they come accidentally upon a true, easily-deciphered story told upon canvas by a sympathetic hand. How delighted they are to find something about the meaning of which they are not compelled to speculate; something within the ordinary experience of ordinary people, and which commonplace folk may appreciate without critical corrections or the sneers of virtuosi. Many of these little genuine paintings are difficult of access; hung below the line, lost in the broad shade from the frames of the great overshadowing high-art performances, huddled into remote corners, ruined by cross lights; but they are noted by very earnest admirers, who, without being able to express the reason for their opinions in technical language, are delighted with them—just as they would be by a pretty child, or a bunch of flowers, or any natural object.

Amongst this class of pictures is "Divided Attention." Mark the expression of the reader, who is lost between the thrilling interest of the narrative that cannot be interrupted till the page is turned, the necessity for guarding her fingers, and the near approach of dinner-time. With what stern deprecation would the rigid economist in housekeeping regard those thick parings! what terrible recollections of indigestion will assail the unhappy consumer of those esculents when they come to table with what the Irish call "a bone" in the centre of each! The incident is simple and humble enough, but it is so well delineated that nobody need wonder to hear of the picture becoming a favourite.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

It is stated in some quarters that Prince Lucien Bonaparte is to be appointed president of the Paris Universal Exhibition commission in the place of Prince Napoleon. Prince Lucien Bonaparte is well known in England, where he resides during much of his time. He is distinguished as a philologist. But it certainly cannot be true that this appointment is made because of any necessity for having at the head of the French commission a Prince equal in rank to the Prince of Wales, who presides over the English body. Prince Lucien Bonaparte has no official rank, nor does he bear, as some journals state, the title of Imperial Highness. It will be remembered that the branch of the family to which he belongs was entirely deprived of the right of succession. Prince Napoleon is the only male personage, except the Emperor's son, who bears the title of Imperial Highness in France, or ranks as a member of the Imperial family.

There is a great strike of cabmen in Paris, not a vehicle having been seen in the streets for several days. A few are now, however, being turned out, the drivers of which are stablemen, and, in not a few instances, English. The cause of the strike was a dispute between the drivers and a company which has obtained a monopoly of a certain description of cabs; but all the Jehus of the city, to the number of many thousands, joined in the strike. This is the great topic of conversation in Paris, every one taking a side for or against the cabmen.

ITALY.

Serious difficulties appear to have arisen in the negotiations between the Italian and Papal Governments, and it is thought M. Vegezzi's mission will be a failure. The Pope is said to have rejected the conditions proposed by the Italian Government.

The French Embassy has demanded that the Pontifical soldiers be commanded by General Montebello. This has been refused by the Pope. His Holiness has remitted ten years of the sentence of imprisonment passed on Chevalier Fausti for conspiracy. Galmanello's term of imprisonment has also been reduced to six years. Thirty other political offenders have had their sentences reduced, and Ferry and ten others have been set at liberty.

Forty-five persons have been arrested at Salerno on a charge of complicity in a Bourbon conspiracy, the central committee of which sat in that town. The first information leading to the discovery of this committee came from Naples, and but for an unfortunate incident many brigands would have fallen into the hands of the Italian soldiery. The Brothers of San Giovanni di Dio were among the principal and most active of the conspirators, their convent being found stored with arms and munitions. To them is to be attributed the revival of brigandage in the province of Salerno, since they have been its principal supporters.

AUSTRIA.

In consequence of the receipt of a telegram from the Austrian Consul at Marseilles that two persons suffering from cholera had arrived there by the last mail from Alexandria, the Minister of Marine has ordered a temporary quarantine of seven days for all vessels arriving in Austrian ports from Egyptian provinces.

SPAIN.

There has been some sort of insurrectionary movement in Valencia, in which it is alleged that General Prim was involved. The *Correspondencia* says the Civil Guard of Valencia have captured a wagon laden with arms and ammunition, two cannon, and ninety-two shells. The Government have refused to grant the request of the late Captain-General of Valencia for an inquiry into his conduct. The same journal states that General Prim has gone to Capera to visit General Garibaldi. The *Telegrafo* of Barcelona asserts, on the contrary, that he has gone to see his old friend, Omar Pacha.

Marshal Narvaez tendered his resignation, on Tuesday, as President of the Council, which was accepted by the Queen. Her Majesty intrusted the formation of a new Cabinet to Marshal O'Donnell.

In the Congress Royal decrees were read the same day accepting the resignation of the Narvaez Cabinet and appointing the new Ministry, which is composed as follows:—Marshal O'Donnell, President of the Council and Minister of War; Senor Bermudez Castro, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Senor Posada Herrera, Minister of the Interior; Senor Armijo, Minister of Public Works; Senor Canovas, Minister for the Colonies; Senor Zavala, Minister of Marine; Senor Alonzo Martinez, Minister of Finance.

PRUSSIA.

The King of Prussia and his Parliament are again in open collision. The Lower Chamber having refused to vote the Budget proposed by the Ministers, the Chambers were dismissed on Saturday last. The following is a summary of the speech from the Throne, which was read by Herr von Bismarck:—

The combined efforts of the representatives and the Government could only have led to decisive results if the welfare of the country had continued, even in the face of political dissension, to be the supreme object of all parties. But such has not been the case. The clearly-expressed intention of the majority of the Lower House to place difficulties in the way of the Ministry has proved detrimental to the material welfare of the country. By rejecting the Budget and the bills for the re-organisation of the army, the increase of the Prussian fleet, and the expenses of the war with Denmark, the Chamber of Deputies has refused demands which the Government was compelled to make. The Chamber has adopted resolutions which the Government cannot carry out. Instead of the desired understanding having been arrived at, the Session closes with the impression of mutual estrangement. The Government will continue to conduct public affairs according to the wants of the country, and will vigorously represent the interests of Prussia both at home and abroad. It hopes that the day is not far distant when the nation, through its representatives, will express to the King its approval and thanks for the course which has been pursued.

His Majesty thanks the Upper House for the devotion and fidelity it has again displayed during this Session.

After the ceremony of proroguing the Chambers, Herr Grabow, President of the Lower House, made a speech, in which he enumerated the events of the Session, and continued as follows:—

The debates have furnished a gloomy picture of the internal condition of the country and have confirmed what I stated in my speech at the opening of the Chambers. The speech from the Throne complains that no understanding has been arrived at; but what the Government demanded was the submission of the Chamber. The efforts to transform a constitutional into an absolute police and military State have reached the utmost limit; but they will wreck upon the loyalty of the people to the Constitution, manifested by thrice electing its representatives. The Session has not been without results. Commercial treaties have been sanctioned and measures for the extension of railways passed. Let us gather around the Constitution and Sovereign who has sworn to protect it.

In conclusion, the President proposed three cheers for the King. Herr Taddel thanked the President in the name of the Chamber, and Herr Grabow then proposed that cheers should be given for the Constitution and the people.

RUSSIA.

A Polish deputation (so at least described) presented an address to the Czar condoling with him on account of the death of his son. The Czar thanked them, and apparently thought the occasion an appropriate one to read a lecture to Poland, and to announce to her that he would never tolerate the notion of her being separated from Russia. He repeated the famous words he uttered in Warsaw in 1856, "Point de réveries"—no dreams.

THE UNITED STATES.

We have advices from New York to the 10th inst. The War Department had ordered the immediate release, upon taking the oath of allegiance, of all Confederate soldiers and military officers below the rank of major, and sailors and naval officers below the rank of commander, except graduates of the United States military and naval academies, as those who held commissions in the United States service previous to the rebellion. The amnesty oath will be administered to all who desire to take it after their release. Notice was given that regulations for the release of officers of higher rank would be issued after the discharges under the present order are completed.

General Grant, in an address to the soldiers of the United States armies, dated the 2nd inst., declares that by their magnificent fighting, bravery, and endurance they have maintained the supremacy of the Union and the Constitution, overturned all opposition to the enforcement of the laws and proclamations for ever abolishing slavery, the cause and pretext of the rebellion, and opened the way to the rightful authorities to restore order and inaugurate peace on a permanent and enduring basis on every foot of American soil. He adds that their marches, sieges, and battles, in distance, duration, resolution, and brilliancy of result dim the lustre of the world's past military achievements, and will be the patriot's precedent in defence of liberty and right in all time to come.

The Government had published the evidence of three witnesses taken during the secret session of the conspiracy trial, and heretofore suppressed. It directly, if true, incriminates Mr. Jefferson Davis and other Southern leaders in the assassination of Mr. Lincoln, and in plots to burn New York and other Northern cities, introduce the yellow fever, and to poison the water in the Cotton Reservoir. This testimony was generally received with suspicion; and, in some respects, was palpably inconsistent with facts. Indeed, it bears the appearance of being concocted for a purpose on the very face of it.

A Washington despatch states that the indictment of treason against Mr. J. Davis and Secretary Breckenridge by the grand jury of the district of Columbia was at the individual instigation of the district attorney, Carrington, and without the knowledge or consent of the Administration, and that, consequently, it is yet uncertain whether Mr. Davis will be tried before a civil or military tribunal. Secretary Breckenridge was reported, from Macon, Georgia, to have succeeded in reaching a vessel which had been waiting for him off the coast of Florida.

Mr. Gerritt Smith, a noted Abolitionist, had made a speech against capital punishment of the Southern leaders at the Cooper Institute, in which he defended the action of Mr. Jefferson Davis and others on the ground that they had battled for States rights, which previous to the war was the declared doctrine of a majority of the people; and argued that, as the Government had recognised the Confederates as belligerents, and obtained the advantages of a conduct of the war under the laws of war, it would be perfidious to abrogate that concession in the hour of victory and treat prisoners of war as traitors. In conclusion, he considered that the proper course would be to deprive certain of the Confederates for ever, and others for a term of years, of the right to vote, extend that right to negroes, repudiate the Confederate debt, and divide the lands of the South among the poor whites and the freed blacks. On the same occasion Mr. Horace Greeley declared it would be a black violation of faith to try Lee or his pardoned men.

The Georgia journals state that the negroes refuse to work, and are committing robberies and outrages. A delegation from the negroes in Kentucky had applied to the Bureau of Freedmen in Washington for advice and assistance in obtaining work and the means of support. They represent that the whites in their State refuse to employ them in any capacity whatever. They had waited upon President Johnson and petitioned that martial law in Kentucky might be continued; and General Palmer granted powers sufficient for their protection. Both requests were asserted to have been conceded.

Secretary McCulloch had announced that the national debt amounted, on the 31st of May last, to 2,635,205,753 dols. 50c., and the interest on the same to 64,480,489 dols. 50c., payable in coin, and 60,158,384 dols. 52c., payable in greenbacks.

The *Tribune* reports that Mr. Stanton had resigned his secretaryship; also that he had since been proffered, but declined, the mission to Berlin.

The Navy Department had ordered the Federal fleets on the Atlantic seaboard, now numbering 600 vessels, to be reduced to ninety. The West Gulf blockading squadron would be reduced to twenty, and the Mississippi squadron to fifteen vessels.

A depot of quartermasters' and commissary's stores at Nashville, Tennessee, containing two years' supplies for 80,000 men, was burnt on the 9th; loss, eight to ten million dollars. A court of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the origin of the fire.

A MATRIMONIAL LOTTERY.—In the Highland parish of Abernethy a young man proposes to open a lottery under the following conditions:—All widows and maidens who have not attained the age of thirty-two are invited to buy him a ticket at the price of 10s. After 300 tickets are sold at this figure the drawing will take place. There will be only one prize, and it will be the right of the fortunate lady who wins it to claim the young gentleman for her husband, and partake with him of the comforts to be derived from the £150 produced by the lottery.

THE PERILS OF THE OCEAN.—The crew of a whaling-vessel, named the *Aeolus*, which sailed from Hull for the Northern seas in February last, arrived again in that port last week, and gave a terrible account of the loss of their vessel and subsequent sufferings. The ship got into an opening in the ice in the middle of April, and came in sight of a vast herd of seals, several miles in extent, but before she could reach them a storm arose which inflicted so much damage on the *Aeolus* that she had to make for Iceland with all speed. During the voyage the crew endured the greatest sufferings from the state of the vessel and the necessity of keeping the pumps continually at work. They were just able to keep the ship afloat until the West Horn was reached, where she was run ashore, the crew of sixty persons fortunately escaping. The parish church was thrown open for their reception, and, having rested and restored themselves by the kindness of the natives and local authorities, they took their departure southward, some forty horses being placed at their disposal. They at length arrived in a southern port, where they found a small Danish smack, and on board this they embarked, although the space was altogether inadequate to the wants of such a number of men. For nine stormy days they lay stretched out on deck and in the hold, with hardly room to move, but at length they arrived in safety at Lerwick, and were at once taken charge of by the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Society, forwarded to Leth, and thence to Hull, where their wives and friends assembled in a great crowd to greet them after the hardships they had gone through.

GREAT BRITAIN AND CANADA.

THE following papers relating to the conferences which have taken place between her Majesty's Government and a Deputation from the Executive Council of Canada appointed to confer with her Majesty's Government on subjects of importance to the Province were presented to both Houses of Parliament, by command of her Majesty, on Monday:—

No. 1.

COPY OF A DESPATCH FROM GOVERNOR-GENERAL VISCOUNT MONCK TO THE RIGHT HON. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.

(No. 83.)

Quebec, March 24.

Sir,—I have the honour to transmit for your information a copy of an approved Minute of the Executive Council of Canada appointing a deputation from their body to proceed to England to confer with her Majesty's Government on subjects of importance to the Province.

The gentlemen named on the deputation propose leaving by the steamer which sails on the 5th of April.—I have, &c.,
MONCK.
The Right Hon. Edward Cardwell, M.P., &c.

Inclosure in No. 1.

COPY OF A REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE HON. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL APPROVED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL ON MARCH 24, 1865.

The committee respectfully recommend that four members of your Excellency's Council do proceed to England to confer with her Majesty's Government:—

1. Upon the proposed confederation of the British North American provinces, and the means whereby it can be most speedily effected.
2. Upon the arrangements necessary for the defence of Canada in the event of war arising with the United States, and the extent to which the same should be shared between Great Britain and Canada.
3. Upon the steps to be taken with reference to the Reciprocity Treaty and the rights conferred by it upon the United States.
4. Upon the arrangements necessary for the settlement of the North-west Territory and Hudson's Bay Company's claims.
5. And generally upon the existing critical state of affairs by which Canada is most seriously affected.

The committee further recommend that the following members of Council be named to form a delegation—viz., Messrs. Macdonald, Cartier, Brown, and Galt. Certified, W. H. LEE, C.E.C.

No. 2.

COPY OF A DESPATCH FROM THE RIGHT HON. EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P., TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL VISCOUNT MONCK.

(No. 95.)

Downing-street, June 17, 1865.

My Lord,—I have the honour to inform your Lordship that several conferences have been held between the four Canadian Ministers who were deputed, under the Minute of your Executive Council of March 24, to proceed to England to confer with her Majesty's Government on the part of Canada, and the Duke of Somerset, Earl De Grey, Mr. Gladstone, and myself, on the part of her Majesty's Government.

On the first subject referred to in the Minute—that of the confederation of the British North American Provinces—we repeated, on the part of the Cabinet, the assurances which had already been given of the determination of her Majesty's Government to use every proper means of influence to carry into effect, without delay, the proposed confederation.

On the second point we entered into a full consideration of the important subject of the defence of Canada, not with any apprehension on either side that the friendly relations now happily subsisting between this country and the United States are likely to be disturbed, but impressed with the conviction that the safety of the empire from possible attack ought to depend upon its own strength and the due application of its own resources. We reminded the Canadian Ministers that, on the part of the Imperial Government, we had obtained a vote of money for improving the fortifications of Quebec. We assured them that so soon as that vote had been obtained the necessary instructions had been sent out for the immediate execution of the works, which would be prosecuted with dispatch; and we reminded them of the suggestion her Majesty's Government had made to them to proceed with the fortifications of Montreal.

The Canadian Ministers, in reply, expressed unreservedly the desire of Canada, to devote her whole resources, both in men and money, for the maintenance of her connection with the mother country; and their full belief in the readiness of the Canadian Parliament to make known that determination in the most authentic manner. They said they had increased the expenditure for their militia from 300,000 doles to 1,000,000 doles, and would agree to train that force to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State for War, provided the cost did not exceed the last-mentioned sum annually, while the question of confederation is pending. They said they were unwilling to separate the question of the works at Montreal from the question of the works west of that place, and from the question of a naval armament on Lake Ontario. That the execution of the whole of these works would render it necessary for them to have recourse to a loan, which could only be raised with the guarantee of the Imperial Parliament. They were ready to propose to their Legislature on their return a measure for this purpose, provided that the guarantee of the Imperial Parliament were given in return, and that they were authorised to communicate to the Parliament of Canada the assurance that, the occasion arising, England will have prepared an adequate naval force for Lake Ontario. They thought that if the guarantee were not obtained now, it was probable that the Canadian Government and Parliament would think it desirable that the question of defensive works should await the decision of the Government and Legislature of the United Provinces.

On the part of her Majesty's Government we assented to the reasonableness of the proposal that, if the province undertook the primary liability for the works of defence mentioned in the letter of Lieutenant-Colonel Jervois, and showed a sufficient security, her Majesty's Government should apply to Parliament for a guarantee for the amount required; and we said that her Majesty's Government would furnish the armaments for the works. But we said that the desire and decision of the Provincial Legislature ought to be pronounced before any application was made to the Imperial Parliament. On the subject of a naval force for Lake Ontario we said that, apart from any question of expediency, the convention subsisting between this country and the United States rendered it impossible for either nation to place more than the specified number of armed vessels on the lakes in time of peace. In case of war it would, as a matter of course, be the duty of any Government in this country to apply its means of naval defence according to the judgment it might form upon the exigencies of each particular time; and the Canadian Ministers might be assured that her Majesty's Government would not permit itself to be found in such a position as to be unable to discharge its duty in this respect. This was the only assurance the Canadian Ministers could expect or we could give.

Upon a review of the whole matter, the Canadian Ministers reverted to the proposal which has been mentioned above, that priority in point of time should be given to the confederation of the provinces. To this we, on the part of her Majesty's Government, assented. In conformity, however, with a wish strongly expressed by the Canadian Ministers, we further said that if, upon future consideration, the Canadian Government should desire to anticipate the confederation, and to propose that Canada should execute the works, they would doubtless communicate to her Majesty's Government that decision; and we trusted that after what had passed in these conferences they would feel assured that any such communication would be received by us in the most friendly spirit.

On the third point, the Reciprocity Treaty, the Canadian Ministers represented the great importance to Canada of the renewal of that treaty, and requested that Sir F. Bruce might be put in communication with the Government of Lord Monck upon the subject. We replied that Sir F. Bruce had already received instructions to negotiate for a renewal of the treaty, and to act in concert with the Government of Canada.

On the fourth point, the subject of the north-western territory, the Canadian Ministers desired that that territory should be made over to Canada, and undertook to negotiate with the Hudson's Bay Company for the termination of their rights, on condition that the indemnity, if any, should be paid by a loan to be raised by Canada under the Imperial guarantee. With the sanction of the Cabinet we assented to this proposal, undertaking that if the negotiation should be successful, we, on the part of the Crown, being satisfied that the amount of the indemnity was reasonable and the security sufficient, would apply to the Imperial Parliament to sanction the arrangement and to guarantee the amount.

On the last point it seemed sufficient that her Majesty's Government should accept the assurances given by the Canadian Ministers on the part of Canada, that that province is ready to devote all her resources, both in men and money, to the maintenance of her connection with the mother country, and should assure them in return that the Imperial Government fully acknowledged the reciprocal obligation of defending every portion of the empire with all the resources at its command.

The Canadian Ministers, in conclusion, said that they hoped it would be understood that the present communications did not in any way affect or alter the correspondence which had already passed between the Imperial Government and the Governments of the British North American provinces on the subject of the Intercolonial Railway. To this we entirely agreed.
I have, &c., EDWARD CARDWELL.

RAILWAY TRAVELLING IN 1865.—There has just been published an official report made by the Government Inspector of Railways, in which he makes the following statement in relation to railway travelling:—"Gentlemen passengers, as well as railway officers of all classes, constantly refuse to travel singly with a stranger of the weaker sex, under the belief that it is only common prudence to avoid in this manner all risk of being accused, for purposes of extortion, of insult or assault." This may one day be thought a singular indication of the manners and customs of the English in the year of grace 1865.

THE RAMSAY AND WILSON STATUES AT EDINBURGH.

As most people are aware, the city of Edinburgh is intersected by a valley, running nearly due east and west, which divides the Old from the New Town. This valley was formerly the site of a sheet of water, which bore the name of the North Loch; but has long since been drained, planted with flowers and shrubbery, and is now called Princes-street Gardens. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway runs through these gardens, and the margins of the line on each side are among the finest of the picturesque features which give to the Scottish capital its character for romantic beauty. Entering the city by railway from the west, the visitor has upon his right the famous old castle seated upon its rocky foundation; on the left is Princes-street, which the Edinburghians delight to consider one of the finest thoroughfares in the world, though it is more a row than a street, as one side only is built upon, the other being occupied by the gardens. About half way up the valley stand the Royal Institution and the building of the Scottish Academy of Art and National Picture-Gallery. These edifices divide the valley into two halves, called respectively the West and the East Gardens. Immediately east of the Royal Institution, on the right or south side, stands the Free Church College, a very handsome erection; and then come those immensely high houses, forming the back of the High-street, which Sir Walter Scott described as

Piled deep and massy, huge and high;

and in one of which Byron irreverently insinuated was that 'eighteenth story' where Scott himself was born. On the left, or northern side, stand the Scott Monument, the Register Office, and the Calton Hill, crowned with the Nelson Monument, the Royal Observatory, and the remains of that abortive effort of Scottish ambition, the National Monument, begun upon a gigantic scale, and never completed. Immediately under the North Bridge, opposite the Register Office, and which connects the Old with the New Town at this point, are the stations of the Edinburgh and Glasgow, the North British, and the Edinburgh and North of Scotland railways, which, of course, form the great centres of railway communication between the city and the rest of the kingdom—east, west, north, and south. The valley opens, on the east, upon the Queen's Park and the German Ocean, having Holyrood Palace in the centre, the spurs of the Calton Hill on the left, and the towering eminence of Arthur's Seat on the right.

To the natural beauties of this valley there have lately been added two statues of which the citizens of Edinburgh may well be proud, and which are represented in our Engraving. The first is a colossal bronze figure of the late Professor John Wilson (the celebrated "Christopher North," of *Blackwood*), who was born at Paisley, in 1785, and died at Edinburgh, in 1854. The statue was subscribed for by his fellow-citizens and other admirers, in testimony of his brilliant genius and personal worth. It was executed by Mr. John Steel, R.S.A., her Majesty's Sculptor for Scotland, the artist who has received, by the Queen's choice of his design, the commission to execute the Scottish National Memorial to the Prince Consort. The second statue is a marble figure, colossal size, also by Mr. Steel, of Allan Ramsay, author of the "Gentle Shepherd" and other Scottish poems, who was born at Leadhill, Lanarkshire, in 1686, and died at Edinburgh, in 1758. It was erected at the cost of the late Lord Murray, one of the Judges of the Court of Session, a lineal descendant and representative of the family of the poet. It was his Lordship's intention originally to place the statue on the Ramsay-terrace, an embanked promenade formed in front of the poet's house upon the Castle rock; but, from want of sufficient foundation, the terrace was found one morning swept into the valley of the North Loch. It was ultimately resolved to select a site at the corner of West Princes-street Garden and foot of the Mound, immediately across the valley, and on the line of Princes-street, the Wilson statue being granted a site in the corresponding corner of East Princes-street Garden, with the Royal Institution between. These sites were probably the finest unoccupied corners in the city, each having a picturesque and effective background, and being at the same time in the centre of thoroughfares. The inauguration of these statues took place a few weeks ago, and was recorded in these columns at the time.

COVENTRY CORN EXCHANGE.

ON a recent visit to Coventry, which formerly could only boast of its mediæval buildings, and had narrow, tortuous, badly-paved streets, and no evidence of progress, we were agreeably surprised to perceive the old city had undergone a complete change, and was following the example of other manufacturing towns in the neighbouring counties, of which Nottingham ranks first. Since our former visit, a Board of Health has been established, by whose indefatigable exertions this city has been thoroughly drained, new and important streets have been formed, several of the old ones widened, and all well paved, and lighted by gas, and waterworks established. A very beautiful parklike cemetery has been founded on the London-road, and laid out by Paxton.

Coventry is known as a "Gothic city," and is celebrated, like Lichfield, for its three spires, that of St. Michael's being second only to Salisbury in altitude and beauty. Mr. G. G. Scott has been busy at work restoring churches to which two of these spires are attached to something of their original state; but the new work detracts greatly from the picturesqueness of the old structures, whose dilapidated state, though to be regretted, is to the eye of the artist most pleasing. What we particularly noticed were the numerous public buildings which have been erected, and not long completed. They embrace different styles of architecture, principally Gothic, the adaptation of which style to modern requirements we cannot but commend. Fine terraces of houses for the opulent citizens, villas, warehouses, schools, Dissenting chapels of considerable pretensions, blocks of shops, houses, &c., and, by far the most important of these erections, the Exchange and Music-hall, add much to the improvement of the city, and appear to be a step in advance of what we are accustomed to see in most provincial towns. They display great versatility of design, and possess considerable architectural merit. We understand that for most of these buildings, and especially the Exchange, Coventry is indebted to Mr. James Murray, architect, who formerly resided there.

We have selected the Corn Exchange for illustration, and have been able to gather the following particulars respecting it.

The building stands in Hertford-street, near the market-place, on a portion of the site formerly occupied by the stables of the well-known King's Head Hotel. In 1854 a company of shareholders was established consisting of the leading citizens and the neighbouring agriculturists, with Lord Leigh as chairman. Designs were advertised for, and, from forty submitted by architects, the one by Mr. Murray was selected. The site was most peculiar, and, in all respects, out of square and level; but the architect has so well designed the plan that, by a geometrical arrangement of the entrance-hall and vestibules, the peculiar shape of the ground is entirely concealed; indeed, instead of marring the effect, it rather adds to its architectural beauty, and has called forth novel and happy effects.

The style of the building is Italian, with details partaking of French-Renaissance and a judicious admixture of Romanesque. The fronts are of white brick, with cornices, rustications, pillars, and other dressings of Derbyshire stone. Round some of the arches and in panels red bricks are introduced. The main portico is an uncommon and most suitable feature, and gives great character to the building. It is semicircular in plan, and for its entire height open to the street, the first floor forming a balcony. On each side of the portico are shops, with ware-rooms and offices above, approached by separate entrances, and principally occupied by manufacturers. On the first floor or left side of the portico is an assembly-room for small meetings, &c., and, being connected with the gallery of the Exchange, is used as a refreshment-room when concerts are held in the hall.

The great hall, which is used as an exchange and for concerts, &c., is situated at the back of the front building, and approached from the front, first through the semicircular portico, then through

a hexagonal vestibule, out of which lead the staircases to the galleries. The entrance end of the room is semicircular, and the opposite end square, with a deep elliptical recess for the orchestra.

On the ground floor it is encircled by a commodious arched corridor, which allows of five separate means of access to the room, and also leads to the several retiring-rooms and staircases. Over this corridor is the gallery for the first class of the audiences, separated from the main room by an arcade of twenty arches, which spring from columnar piers, the front pilasters of which support a richly moulded cornice, whence the roof springs. The ceiling is of elliptical form, divided transversely and longitudinally into compartments by moulded ribs. Five of the panels on each side contain plate glass, to afford the required light for the cornedalers. The remaining panels have plastic enrichments emblematic of Agriculture, Commerce, and Music, the county and city arms, &c. In addition to the roof lights, there are six large windows on each side above the gallery, by which the room is admirably and abundantly lighted. At night, light is afforded by three large gas sun-lights in the centre compartments of the ceiling.

The exchange room, or hall, is about 110 ft. in length, 55 ft. in width on floor level, but across the galleries the breadth is 71 ft. The height, to centre of ceiling, is 47 ft. Commodious retiring-rooms, &c., for the audience and professionals are provided. The acoustic qualities of the room have called forth the praise of celebrated vocalists who have performed there since the opening.

Under the entire building (on a level with the back street) are extensive stabling, coach-houses, and cellars for the adjoining hotel.

The building was commenced in 1854, and was completed and publicly opened in June, 1856, and since then has been regularly used as an exchange, as well as for concerts, meetings, and general purposes. The entire cost, we understand, did not exceed £8000.

To the archaeologist or amateur architect, Coventry is full of interesting memorials, ancient and modern, and we should consider it a pleasure to be again "sent to Coventry."

THE "ROYAL" GAME OF GOLF.

GOLF is the national summer game of Scotland, as curling is that of winter. It is principally played, however, in the midland, eastern, and north-eastern counties, such as the Lothians, Fife, Forfar, and the lowlands of Perth and Aberdeen. Fifeshire is especially the land of golfers, almost every town and village in the county having its club and "links," or piece of ground on which the game is played. In the western and southern counties golfing is little patronised.

The first requisite for golf-playing is, of course, to procure a suitable piece of ground, which is not always an easy matter, as a considerable amount of space is necessary. The grounds used vary in form in different parts of Scotland. The best shape is an oblong of considerable extent—say, a mile or a mile and a half in length, by about from a quarter to an eighth of a mile in breadth—and of an irregular and undulating surface. This is the nature of the celebrated links at St. Andrew's, in Fifeshire, perhaps the most famous golfing-ground in Scotland. In this course a series of holes or "bunkers," as they are called, are cut at intervals of a quarter of a mile, more or less. Other grounds are nearly square, in which case a hole is made at each corner; but if the ground be irregular in figure and not of sufficient length, it is not uncommon to place a "bunker" at each angle, so that the player shall traverse the whole space and finish at the spot from which he started.

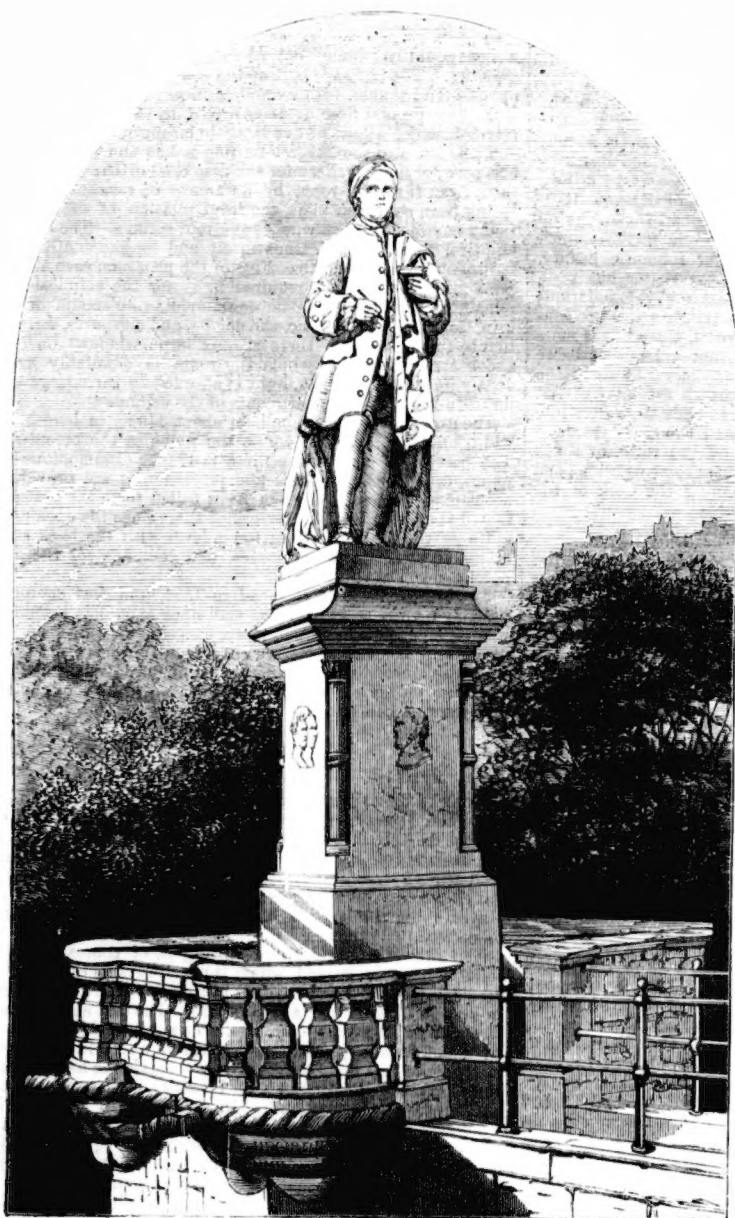
Golf is played with a club and a ball. The club is from 3 ft. to 4 ft. in length, according to the height and length of arm of the player. It is made curved and massive towards the head, to give it scope, weight, and strength. This head, or knob, is formed, for the sake of strength, from beech or some other tough wood, and as it curves upwards it is planed off, so as to fit to the handle, to which it is firmly glued and tightly corded down, a coating of wax or resin being added at the junction to preserve the cords from being loosened by wet. Unless these particulars are duly attended to in the manufacture of the club, it will be liable to split and fly off by either a very hard or indirect stroke. The face of the club is further secured by a piece of hard bone, or occasionally ivory, at least half an inch thick. It is also loaded with from four to six ounces of lead, according to the will of the player. The handle is usually covered with cord, list, or velvet, at the pleasure of the owner, all "keen" golfers possessing their own clubs. These implements, however, can be borrowed by novices from the "cads," or "caddies," who, in the capacity of attendants on the players, haunt the various golf-grounds. These caddies are often excellent players, and, being thoroughly conversant with all the niceties of the game, are great authorities on all doubtful or disputed strokes. The form of the club and the number taken to the ground vary considerably, according to circumstances and the habits and means of the player, the attendant cad having usually many varieties with him, to suit every position in which the ball may be placed; for, by the rules of many clubs, the ball must never be touched by the hand until finally holed at the goal. Among the spare clubs carried by the attendant, and which are technically called *putters*, there are, as we have said, several sorts; one being short, stiff, and heavy, similar in figure but larger in the head to that already described, for making a steady and direct stroke when near the hole. Another, made of iron instead of wood, is used for making a hit at the ball when very unfavourably placed, as in a sand-pit or rut, where the common club would be in danger of breaking. When a ball falls into a pit or rut, from which it is impossible to strike it out, the player is allowed, in some clubs, to take it out with his hand and throw it up in a line with the spot, and he then strikes off afresh from the spot where the ball rests on falling. This indulgence, when allowed, is counted as one; it is not, however, permitted in all clubs.

The golf-ball is about the size of an egg, and is made very hard. It is composed of a cover of stout leather, which, having been well soaked in boiling-water, allows of its being very firmly sewed and then turned inside out, leaving only a small opening, through which it is firmly stuffed with feathers. The leather, on drying, contracts into a ball of the dimensions stated, and nearly as circular as that used in cricket. The golf-ball, however, is much harder than even the hardest cricket-ball. It is subsequently painted over with several coats of white paint, the whitelead used for which should be perfectly pure and exceedingly well ground. Each coat, of course, should be thoroughly dry before another is applied. The manufacture of these clubs and balls is quite a trade in the neighbourhood of well-frequented golf-grounds.

The game is played by two or more persons, so that there be an equal number on each side. The players start or "strike off," as it is technically called, at one end of the course, go the whole round, and finish off at the starting-point, where the final hole is placed. Only two balls are used, one belonging to each party, one of whom strikes in turn; but if the last striker does not drive his ball so far as that of his opponent, one of his party must then strike once or perhaps twice more; and the game is marked by calling out one, two, three, or more, as the case may be. If more than two persons are playing, the same individual does not strike twice in succession. Each miss is counted as one, and the party who puts the ball in the final hole in the fewest number of strokes wins the game. Enthusiastic golfers insist upon describing their favourite pastime as the "Royal Game of Golf"—why, we do not exactly know. Our Engravings depict the beginning and close of the game—the striking-off and the final holing of the ball.

AN EXPLOSION OF FIREDAMP took place at the New Pits Colliery, Tredegar, Monmouthshire, on Friday morning week, by which twenty-six lives were lost.

MATTHEWS the cabman has at last settled with his creditors, and is free of the fangs of the law. Of the £300 awarded to him for his part in the apprehension and conviction of Miller, £50 was allowed him by the Registrar in Bankruptcy, and a final dividend of £250 in the pound was awarded to the creditors.

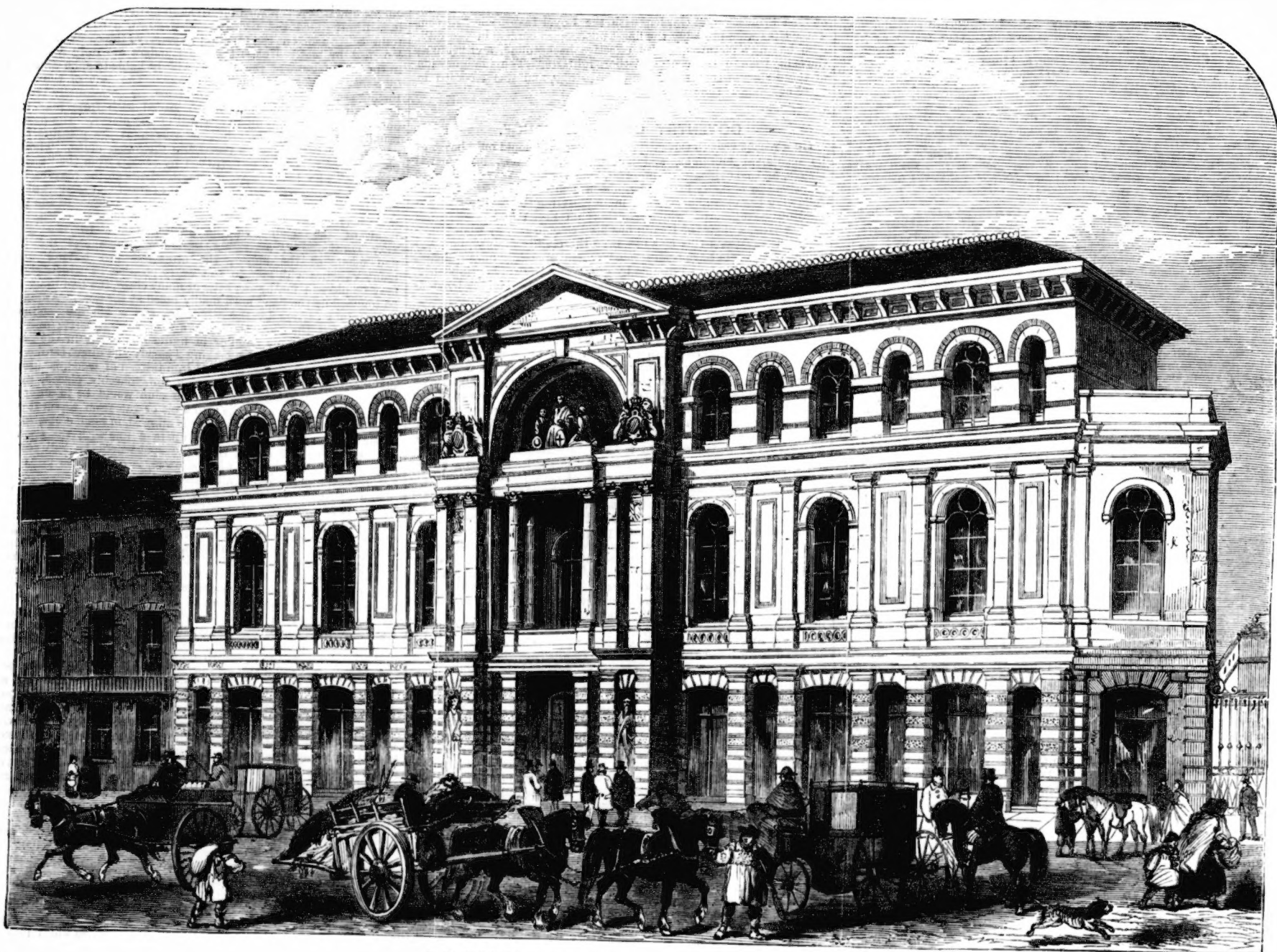


RAMSAY.



WILSON.

STATUES OF ALLAN RAMSAY AND PROFESSOR WILSON, IN THE PRINCES-STREET GARDENS, EDINBURGH.—(J. STEELL, R.S.A., SCULPTOR.)

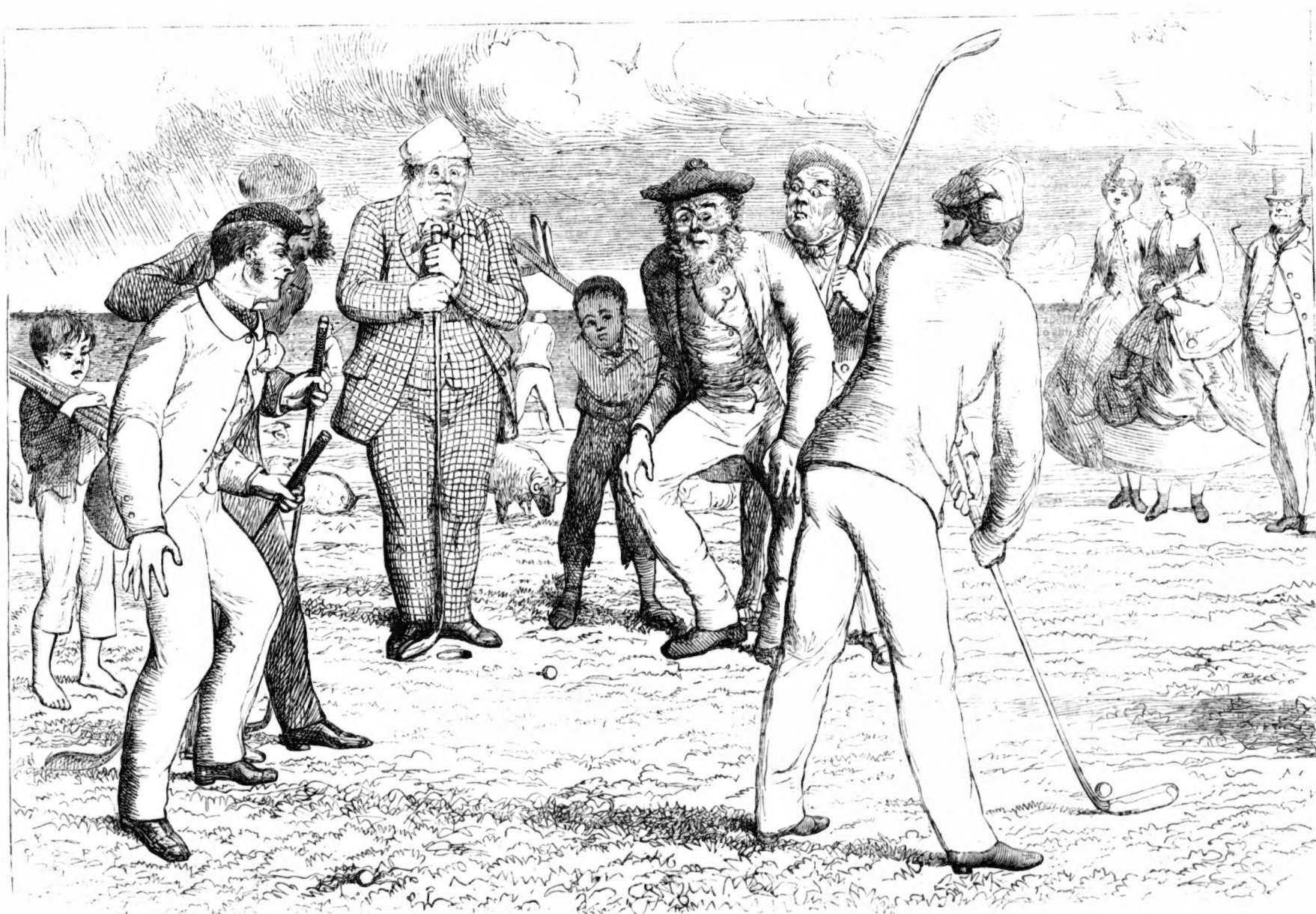


THE CORN EXCHANGE, COVENTRY.—(J. MURRAY, ARCHT. CT.)

THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL GAME OF GOLF. (DRAWN BY A. DOYLE.)



THE START: "STRIKING OFF."



"HOLEING THE BALL" AT THE FINISH.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 264. A CALM DEBATE.

VERY few strangers care to get into the gallery of the House of Commons on Wednesdays; they prefer to be there on some night when there is "great debate," as they term it, on—when the "great guns" are expected to go off—when Disraeli is to explode upon the Government—when Palmerston is to return the fire; in short, when a great faction fight is to be fought out—a struggle for place—and when all the leaders are present, with their respective forces to cheer and groan and to groan and cheer, making the house more like a cock-pit than an arena for calm debate. This is, however, not our taste. We have had enough, and more than enough, of that; we prefer to be present when the House is in calmer mood, when competent speakers are discussing, in dignified manner, some grave question with calmness and temper befitting the subject; in short, when the House rises to the dignity of a senate. The debate of Wednesday morning last week, when Mr. Goschen moved the second reading of his Oxford Tests Abolition Bill, was exactly to our mind. The question was grave and important; the speakers able and well prepared for their work; the audience select, and, though evidently deeply interested in the question, calm and thoughtful. On the whole, we should adjudge this to be the best debate we have had this Session.

MR. GÖSCHEN.

Mr. Goschen, the promoter of this bill—George Joachim Goschen—is a City merchant, a member of the notable firm of Messrs. Fröhling and Goschen, Austinfriars. He came into the House in May, 1863, when Mr. Western Wood died. Who it was that first thought of Mr. Goschen as a fit and proper person to represent the city of London in Parliament we know not; but, whoever it was, the selection does honour to his judgment, for, excepting always Lord John Russell, Mr. Goschen is the ablest representative that the City has had for many years; we might say, perhaps, with truth, since the time (1832) when the City elected Grote, the accomplished historian of Greece. Mr. Goschen, though a "City man," has had the training of a gentleman. He was educated first at Rugby, and afterwards at Oriel College, Oxford. We believe that Mr. Goschen is the first English University man that London, since the passing of the Reform Bill, has returned. What was done before the Reform Bill we cannot tell, as we have no record at hand. Mr. Grote was not educated at a University; Lord John Russell was educated at Westminster School and at Edinburgh. But some of our thoughtful readers may say, "What of all this? Are our legislators who have had a University education any the better for it? We have observed that University men, instead of being able to recognise the great political and social problems of the day and solve them, are utterly blind to these problems; are, in short, mere obstructives—hanging on the wheels of progress as drags, instead of helping them forward." And there is some truth in this objection. True education ought to and does enlarge the mind; and that training at college or elsewhere which does not do this is not education at all, in the right sense of the word. But, not to discuss this question at length, we may say that much depends upon the soil in which the seed is sown, and much upon the position in which a man is placed. In Mr. Goschen's case, the seed fell upon good ground; and, further, he did not, when he left college, retire to the country and nurse in seclusion college ideas and prejudices, but entered at once into business, and came into contact with the great world. Moreover, he is, as his name indicates, of Continental extraction; is conversant, in all probability, with Continental languages—German especially—and through that gateway has been able to enter into a larger world of thought than is open to our country parsons and squires. But, however this may be, Mr. Goschen is unquestionably an able man, and, his college education to the contrary notwithstanding, a man of clear insight, world-wide sympathies, acute reasoning powers, and, in short, capable of both seeing and solving, and, what is quite as valuable, has courage to attempt to solve, the great political and social problems of the times as they arise. Let the City electors make a note of all this, and by all means let us have Mr. Goschen again in Parliament.

HIS SPEECH.

Mr. Goschen rose to move the second reading of his bill under awkward circumstances. Some fifty members had been pressed to make a House. When the Speaker had taken the chair, at least half these members rushed away, most of them to the Committee rooms up stairs, where business was awaiting them. When, then, Mr. Goschen arose he had not more than twenty members present to listen to him. Others, however, soon began to dribble in, and in about a quarter of an hour after he rose he had an audience of some fifty or sixty men. A small number this, it is true; but then it was select, comprising some of our best men. Fit audience, though few, we might call it; and as large as he could expect to have at that time in the morning. But though the audience was small it was deeply attentive, as well it might be, for the speech of Mr. Goschen was of rare excellence. It was not oratorical. Oratorical flourishes of language or manner are not in Mr. Goschen's way. It was a simple, unadorned statement of his case—thoughtful, lucid, closely argumentative, and, we may say, exhaustive. Once only did Mr. Goschen break away from the strictly argumentative, and that was in his peroration, which, as it contains a beautiful truth, elegantly expressed, we give at length:—

The surest connection (said Mr. Goschen), however, between the University and the Church could not be supported by an Act of that House. That connection must rest upon the inherent power of the Church and upon her hold on the affections of the people of this country. If the Universities remained bound to the Church of England less by legal ties and subscriptions than by the power of truth and common sympathy with the wants of the nation, then they might hope to realise the beautiful aspirations of the prayer in our Liturgy which seeks for the unity not of the letter but of the spirit, and the bond not of subjection but of peace.

"Yea, yea!" as in olden times members used to shout when some sentiment specially delighted them. Unity of spirit, not uniformity of creed; unity in multifariousity, like that which we see in all nature's works. Procrustes' bed ought to have got obsolete by this time, and been thrown away as an antiquated machine. Mr. Goschen carried the second reading of his bill; but it will not pass this year. It is questionable whether it will pass the Commons; but it certainly will not pass the Lords. There Procrustes' beds are still in high favour.

A POLITICAL GAME.

There has been a very curious and interesting game going on in the house this Session (a game of chess, we might call it); players on the one side, Mr. Hennessy, Sir George Bowyer, and others, including, it is said, the right honourable gentleman the member for Bucks, and some of his friends; these, however, were scarcely seen in the game. On the other side was the Right Honourable William Monsell, and, perhaps, the members of her Majesty's Government; but they, too, if they did play, kept themselves decently concealed. The stakes were the votes of the Irish Roman Catholics at the forthcoming general election. The game was begun at the beginning of last Session, or even earlier, by Messrs. Hennessy, Bowyer, and Co.; and their first move was the wrongs of the late Neapolitan Sovereign, and the still more grievous wrongs of our holy father the Pope. These were thrust forward on every possible occasion; and redress of them, or at least protest against them, was earnestly demanded of her Majesty's Government. And this move was for a time very successful; for of course her Majesty's Government could do nothing in the matter. How could a Liberal Government protest against the unity of Italy or plead for the Papal Government? Her Majesty's Government could not do anything, and would not try. Well, this was just what the artful players wanted. This was, in fact, as they thought, giving them the game; for it enabled them to say to the Irish Roman Catholics, "See here, this Government, which many of you have supported by sending Liberals to the House, is our bitterest enemy—enemy to our religion, and plotting even the overthrow of our Holy Father." And for a time the game did seem to be theirs. Irish Liberal Roman Catholic members dropped off from the Government. Some dozen of them, as we know, in the division on the Danish question

last year, went over bodily to the enemy; while in Ireland such was the excitement against the Government, that, if there had been an election in 1864, the Liberal Roman Catholics would have been most of them rejected. Thus far, then, the clever move of Messrs. Hennessy and Bowyer was a success; and very jubilant they were.

CLEVER CHECKMATE.

But, as says the hunting proverb, "Halloo not, gentlemen, before you are out of the wood." There is another move to be made, though you know it not. A keen opponent is watching your little game, and next Session he will come upon the scene. This other player was, as we said, Mr. Monsell, member for Limerick, and once Secretary of the Board of Ordnance in the Aberdeen Government. "Ah," said the right hon. gentleman in his own mind, "you tell the Irish Catholics that the Conservatives are their friends, do you? Well, we will put them to the test;" and in due time the right hon. gentleman brought before the House his Roman Catholic Oath Bill to test the metal of these new-born friends of the Roman Catholics, and how this move of the right hon. gentleman succeeded we have already reported, and need not report again at length. Suffice it to say that the Conservatives, as a body, with the right hon. member for Bucks at their head, decided to oppose the bill—nay, the Conservative whips rallied their men, and Messrs. Hennessy, Bowyer, and Co., were fairly checkmated. The third reading of this bill came on on Thursday in last week, and passed without a division. It was thought that it would pass without debate, but that did not suit Mr. Monsell's policy. He had unmasked these professed friends of the Roman Catholics, and he determined to hold them up in their true character to the Irish people; and this he did in these ever memorable words, which have ere this gone through the length and breadth of the Green Isle:—"If this bill be defeated it will be entirely owing to the right hon. gentleman the member for Bucks and his party." Please to note that, free and independent electors of Ireland, and act accordingly. We have given this game a prominent notice here because it is exactly in our province so to do; for here, readers, you have really a peep behind the scenes—a peep of the Inner Life of the House of Commons.

A VACUUM.

The laws which govern the debates of the House of Commons often appear to outsiders—and, indeed, to many of the members themselves—very mysterious and complicated, tending rather to confusion than to order. Looked at, however, steadily and with due intelligence, there is no confusion in them, no complication, and no mystery. We say that, not unfrequently, they are unintelligible even to members. We had an example of this on Friday night week, when Mr. Berkeley had his motion upon the subject of the ballot upon the paper, as an amendment on going into Supply. The motion stood upon the paper in this form—"On going into Supply, Mr. Berkeley to move that," &c., his resolution in favour of the ballot, which we need not copy. Well, this was all very simple, and a great number of members came down to support or oppose Mr. Berkeley; but before Mr. Berkeley's notice there stood upon the paper several other notices of amendment; notably—one given by Mr. Seely—notice of amendment on the subject of dockyards, and on this there was a division, and the Government was defeated by a majority of 2, and here many of the members got into a muddle; "Oh! ah! a division," they said; "well, there can be only one division on going into Supply, therefore Berkeley cannot divide," and many of them actually went away confident that there would be no division on Mr. Berkeley's motion. But they were mistaken, as we shall proceed to show if our readers will give us their attention. The form of putting an amendment on going into Supply is this:—"The original question," says the Speaker, "is that I do now leave the chair (in order that the House may resolve itself into Committee), since which an amendment has been moved that all the words after that be left out, in order to insert the words (viz., the amendment proposed). The question which I have now to put is that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the question"—that is to say, that the words proposed to be left out be not left out, but that the original words, "that I do now leave the chair," stand as at first proposed. Well, in this case, on a division, Mr. Seely gained a majority, and the words proposed to be left out were ordered to be left out, and nothing of the original question stood but the word "that." The next question proposed by the Chair was, "that the words (Seely's amendment) be here inserted." And if Mr. Seely could have carried the insertion of these words, there could obviously have been no more divisions, nor, indeed, any more amendments moved; because the House would, in that case, have decided that Mr. Seely's amendment should stand in place of the original question. This, however, Mr. Seely could not do. He tried to do so, but the Government was too much for him. The debate was renewed, scouts were sent out in every direction to whip up supporters, and when the division came on upon the question "that the words (Mr. Seely's amendment) be here inserted," he was beaten by a majority of 27. And now how stood the matter? Why thus: the House could not go into Supply, because by the first division it had struck out the words, "I do now leave the chair," and could not replace them; but the word "That" still stood, and it was competent to any other member who had a notice of amendment upon the paper to move that his amendment should fill up the vacant space after the word "That." The mistake, then, which the members who went away made was this: they fancied after the first division that Mr. Seely had carried his amendment, but he had done no such thing. He had cleared the way, made a space for it, but when he tried to lift his amendment into this vacant space he was defeated.

THE VACUUM CANNOT BE FILLED.

This, then, is how the matter stood after these two divisions. The word "That" stood alone, solitary and meaningless, and the labour of the remainder of the evening was to add other words to "That" to give it a meaning. Nobody, however, succeeded. Mr. Hanbury Tracy proposed to add a resolution about the Order of the Bath, but failed; and still, alone in its glory, stood the word "That." After Tracy came Dillwyn, and proposed a resolution about the Soules Collection at the Kensington Museum; but neither could he succeed. In fact, both Tracy and Dillwyn, finding that they had no chance of success, gave up the attempt without a division. At last—late at night, near midnight—came Mr. Henry Berkeley, with his ballot resolution, determined that, at all events, he would try his utmost to furnish this poor solitary word with fitting companions; and he made a speech of an hour's length, and he evoked laughter and cheers, and he divided the House; but he, too, failed, ignominiously failed, for he was beaten by a majority of forty-four. And so this poor word "That" had to be left standing alone at last; and thus it will stand for ever and for evermore. And now, farewell to "That."

THE COMING ELECTIONS.—The Duke of Wellington has addressed the following letter to his tenantry at Strathfieldsaye:—"Dear Sir,—I think it right to explain clearly to you my feeling regarding the exercise of your vote. It is a trust imposed upon you for the advantage of the country, and the responsibility for the proper exercise of it rests on yourself alone. It is placed by the country in your hands, not in mine, and I beg you distinctly to understand that no one has any authority for stating that I wish to bias you in favour of any candidate." The following circular, of a somewhat different type from the above, has been issued to the tenantry on the great Holkham estate:—"Holkham, June 10.—Dear Sir,—I am especially instructed to request that you will be good enough to give your vote, at the ensuing election for West Norfolk, in favour of the two Liberal candidates—Mr. Gurdon and Sir Willoughby Jones—and also to use all the influence you possess with any person who may be upon the register of voters, to induce them to support these gentlemen.—I am, &c., J. SHELLABEAR."

NATIONAL LIFE-BEAT INSTITUTION.—The widow of the late Duke of Northumberland has decided on presenting to this institution the cost of a life-boat, its equipment, and transporting-carriage, in memory of her late husband, who was for many years the president of the institution, and took much interest in its philanthropic objects. The Duchess, moreover, has expressed her wish that the new life-boat should be called the "Algernon and Eleanor"—their united names—and suggested that it might be placed on the Northumberland coast, the native county of the deceased Duke.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Marquis of Westmeath called attention to the introduction of the practices of the Roman Catholic religion into the worship of the Church of England at St. Matthew's, Stoke Newington; St. Paul's, Lorrimer-square, Walworth; St. Alban's, Holborn; and St. Mary Magdalen, Munster-square. The noble Marquis observed that at one time he had determined to apply for an audience with the Queen for the purpose of representing the subject to her, but on second thoughts, and recollecting the channel through which he would have to make his application, he paraphrased to himself the words of Oliver Cromwell with respect to Sir Harry Vane, and said, "The Lord deliver me from Sir George Grey."

The Bishop of London said he was quite ready to use his authority and power in checking these practices whenever he could do so legally and with any prospect of success.

After some further discussion the subject dropped.

The Union Chargeability Bill was passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

AFFAIRS OF BRITISH AMERICA.

Mr. CARDWELL, replying to a question of Mr. A. Mills, announced that the conferences between the Government and the Canadian Commissioners had terminated that day, and that, on Monday next, he should lay the papers explaining the result upon the table of the House.

DOCKYARD MANAGEMENT.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. SEELY moved to resolve that it was inexpedient to continue the practice of appointing naval officers who were not possessed of a technical knowledge of the business carried on in her Majesty's dockyards to the offices of superintendents thereof, and the practice of limiting their tenure of office to a period of five years.

Mr. WHITE having seconded the motion, Lord C. PAGET admitted that some work cost more in public dockyards than in private ones, but declared that it was most necessary to keep up the public establishments. He denied that naval officers were incompetent as superintendents of dockyards, and opposed the motion.

Mr. BRIGHT charged the Admiralty with extravagance and waste, and declared that their management was not respectable to themselves, was discreditable to Parliament, and oppressive to the country.

On the formal division, the motion that the House go into Committee of Supply was negatived by 36 votes to 34.

The motion of Mr. Seely was then put. Another debate ensued, and the motion finally was negatived by 60 votes to 33.

MONDAY, JUNE 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

Earl RUSSELL stated, in reply to Lord Brougham, that there was a greater disposition on the part of Spain to co-operate with this country in repressing the slave trade than heretofore; and, as there was every probability of the United States acting energetically with us in putting an end to this traffic, he hoped their efforts would not be without success.

SAFETY OF RAILWAY PASSENGERS.

Lord ST. LEONARDS moved the second reading of the Railway Passengers Bill, the object of which was to prevent railway companies locking both doors of the carriages in passenger-trains. He said that if the Government would take the whole matter into their consideration he would not press the bill.

After some observations by the Marquis of Clanricarde, the Duke of Marlborough, Lord Wharfedale, and the Duke of Montrose,

Earl GRANVILLE said that the Government intended to give their best attention to the question; but it was impossible for him to pledge them to the introduction of any particular measure, as the difficulty was to introduce one that would not create greater evils than it would remedy.

The bill was then withdrawn.

REVISION OF THE STATUTE LAW.

The LORD CHANCELLOR laid upon the table a bill for completing the revision of the statute law and for the expurgation of the statute book.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CANADIAN NEGOTIATIONS.

Mr. CARDWELL laid on the table the papers relating to the Canadian negotiations. In answer to a question from Mr. Disraeli, he said he should not call attention to their contents, but it would be quite competent for any other member to do so.

THE TREATY WITH THE ZOLLVEREIN.

Mr. LAYARD, replying to an inquiry of Mr. Heygate, said that the commercial treaty recently contracted with the German Zollverein had not yet been ratified, but the ratifications would be exchanged in a few days. There was no tariff annexed to the treaty.

THE SECRETARY FOR WAR.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. D. GRIFFITH asked the Premier whether he was prepared to take into consideration the great disadvantage to the harmonious co-operation of military authority and Constitutional Government which arises from the absence of the Secretary of War from the House of Commons, and moved that it would be convenient, under present circumstances, that the Secretary for War should be a member of the House of Commons.

Lord PALMERSTON opposed the motion, and contended that, according to the constitution of the Government, it is impossible to concentrate all the heads of departments in the House of Commons, as the hon. member seemed to desire.

The motion was withdrawn.

EXPORTATION OF COAL.

Mr. HUBBARD brought under the notice of the House the fifth clause in the commercial treaty with the German Zollverein, to the effect that the contracting parties engaged not to prohibit the exportation of coal, and to levy no duty on such exportation, and pointed out that the precaution had not been taken of inserting a provision that the parties would also abstain from levying an import duty upon the article so exported free of duty.

Mr. M. GIBSON reminded the hon. member that Parliament had deliberately abandoned the export duty on coal as impolitic in a national point of view, and as an impost that was oppressive to a considerable branch of industry, for coal was only valuable after having been got out of the pit by the application of human labour. The treaty was altogether commercial in its nature, and in no respect affected the belligerent rights of the Crown.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, when the remaining votes of the Civil Service Estimates were passed.

TUESDAY, JUNE 20.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the report of the Public-houses Closing Act Amendment Bill, the Marquis of Clanricarde moved to re-insert the clause which entrusted the granting of occasional licenses to the magistrates in petty sessions and not to the police authorities. Earl Granville objected to the motion, which was supported by the Earl of Derby. At length Earl Granville assented to the restoration of the clause, on condition that the metropolis was excluded from its operation. The clause, so amended, was then added to the bill.

The Prisons Bill was read a second time, and several other measures were advanced a stage. There was a brief discussion on the Land Debentures (Ireland) Bill, which passed through Committee. The Union Chargeability Bill was read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

At a morning sitting several Government resolutions were passed. Among them was one to increase the salaries of county court judges by £300 a year, in consequence of the increase in their duties caused by the passing of the County Courts Equitable Jurisdiction Act. A considerable time was spent in the discussion in Committee of the Fire Brigade (Metropolis) Bill. Eventually, with some amendments, it passed through Committee.

EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

The O'DONOGHUE moved a humble address to the Queen, representing that conscientious objections to the present system of University education in Ireland prevented a large number of her Majesty's subjects from enjoying the advantages of University education, and praying that such steps might be taken as would remove this grievance. The hon. member observed that the Roman Catholics of Ireland numbered four millions and a half, yet they had no University of their own or any institution for education of a high order. Their position in that respect was, indeed, one of grievous inferiority; but they had no desire to deprive their Protestant countrymen of the advantages they enjoyed. They only wished to be placed upon a footing of equality with their fellow-subjects in England and their fellow-subjects and co-religionists in the colonies.

Sir G. GREY said that to grant a charter for a Roman Catholic University, with power to confer degrees, was objectionable on the ground that by multiplying these bodies they ran the risk of having different standards, and that the degrees would lose their value. The best course would, in his judgment, be to enlarge the powers of the Queen's University, amend its charter so as to remove the restriction which now prevented it from granting degrees to any students but those who had passed through one of its colleges, and so place it upon the same footing as the University of London.

Mr. WHITESIDE believed the object of the motion was to separate the youth of Ireland into two classes, and the Protestants would be sent to the Dublin University and the Roman Catholics to the newly-chartered University. Believing, therefore, that it would introduce a dangerous principle, he should vote against the motion.

After some further discussion, The O'DONOGHUE, in reply, admitted that the scheme indicated by the Government, if properly developed, might be worthy of consideration, and, thanking them for the candid manner in which they had met his motion, he consented to its withdrawal.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Blake moved the second reading of the Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Act Amendment Bill. The Government opposed the bill, and after some discussion it was withdrawn.

A short conversation ensued on the motion for the second reading of the Merchant Shipping Disputes Bill, in the course of which it was admitted that some better tribunals were wanted for the settlement of these disputes than those which already exist. Mr. M. Gibson promised that the Government would consider the question. The bill was withdrawn.

Sir C. O'Loughlin moved the second reading of his bill to make Bank of England notes a legal tender in Ireland. The measure was, however, opposed, and it too was withdrawn.

Mr. Lygon moved the second reading of the Educational and Charitable Institutions Bill.—Mr. Mills opposed the bill, on the ground that it was an interference with the rights of parents.—After some discussion, Sir G. Grey said he would vote for the second reading, on the understanding that the bill would not be further proceeded with this Session.—Mr. Lygon accepted this offer, but a division was forced, when the second reading was carried by 49 votes to 35.

The Railway Clauses Bill was withdrawn after a long discussion on the motion to go into Committee.

Several bills were then put forward a stage. Finally, the Appropriation Bill, that harbinging of the close of the Session, were brought in and read a first time.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House forwarded a vast number of private and public bills a stage, while in some cases the further consideration of certain measures was postponed. There was no discussion on any subject; and their Lordships went through a large amount of work, which, however, was all of a routine character.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SATURDAY HALF-HOLIDAY.

Mr. BUXTON asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he was prepared to give an answer to the application made to him by a deputation which waited upon him some time since with regard to affording the clerks in the several Government offices the opportunity of obtaining a half-holiday on Saturday afternoons.

Lord PALMERSTON said the application was worthy of the most serious consideration. The Secretary of the Treasury was in communication with the various departments in order to ascertain what arrangements could be made for carrying out the object consistently with the efficiency of the public service.

CLERICAL SUBSCRIPTION BILL.

Sir G. GREY moved the second reading of this bill, which provides for carrying out the recommendations of the Commissioners appointed in 1864. The right hon. Baronet explained the circumstances under which the Commission was issued, and expressed his satisfaction that, although the Commissioners represented various phases of opinion in the Church, they were unanimous in the conclusion at which they arrived.

After some discussion, the bill was read a second time.

Several other bills were advanced a stage.

LORD ELCHO AND THE SCOTTISH SECTARIANS.

The following correspondence between a body calling itself the Protestant Electoral Union of Scotland and Lord Elcho, M.P. for Haddingtonshire, has been published:—

Protestant Electoral Union of Scotland, 17, George IV. Bridge, Edinburgh, June 17.

Dear Sir,—We are instructed by the Protestant Electoral Union of Scotland to request the favour of your reply to the following questions, as a candidate for the representation in Parliament of Haddingtonshire—viz:—

1. Will you support a motion for the withdrawal of the Maynooth grant and of all other Parliamentary grants for the support of Romanism?
2. Will you support or oppose any proposal in Parliament for the endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood in Ireland out of the Consolidated Fund or otherwise?

We are, dear Sir, yours truly,

J. H. SKINNER, President.
W. G. CASSELS, Hon. Sec.

St. James's-place, June 19.

Gentlemen,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of a lithographed circular letter, dated "Protestant Electoral Union of Scotland," commencing with "Dear Sir," and signed "J. H. Skinner, President; W. G. Cassels, Hon. Secretary."

By this circular I am requested to reply to the following questions:—

1. Will you support a motion for the withdrawal of the Maynooth grant, and of all other grants for the support of Romanism?
2. Will you support or oppose any proposal in Parliament for the endowment of the Roman Catholic priesthood in Ireland out of the Consolidated Fund or otherwise?

In reply I have to state that, personally, I have not the honour of your acquaintance, that publicly I have no knowledge of the existence of the "Protestant Electoral Union of Scotland," and that, politically, I do not recognise the jurisdiction of any such self-constituted body.

I deny the right of this or of any other self-constituted political association to attempt to usurp the function of the constituencies, and thus to interfere between a representative and his constituents, or between candidates and electors. It is a direct interference with the freedom of election and an unconstitutional attempt to lower the representative of a constituency to the level of a delegate of a sectarian political association.

I have now for eighteen years had the honour of representing the county of Haddington in Parliament. I have invariably declined, as regards my constituents, to limit my freedom and discretion in the exercise of my Parliamentary duties by any pledge. To that course I intend to adhere. Hitherto I have enjoyed the confidence of my constituents. That confidence I hope to retain; and I do not believe it will be forfeited or diminished by my denying on their part, as well as on my own, your right to interfere between them and me. I remain your obedient servant,

ELCHO.

THE NEW LAW ON COUNTY VOTERS.—The following provision on county voters, under the Act recently passed, has just come into force:—"The clerk of the peace of every county shall, together with the precept, transmit to the overseer of every parish or township within such county a sufficient number of copies of the part or parts of the register relating to such parish or township; and the overseer of the poor of every parish or township shall, on or before the 20th of June in every year, and at the same time with the publication of the notice mentioned in the fourth section of the Act, publish a copy of the register then in force relating to their parish or township, and shall revise the same after a period including two Sundays, and not later than the 20th of July." Already the required notices have appeared on the church and chapel doors of places in the metropolis. In the schedule of the new Act instructions are given by the clerks of the peace in the precept to the overseers as to the manner in which the notice and register are to appear on the church and chapel doors. The notice calls on all persons to pay, on or before the 20th of July, all parochial rates and all assessed and other taxes due previously to the 5th of January last, or their names will not appear on the register of voters. The register will appear on the doors of all churches and chapels for the next two Sundays, and will then be removed. As a general election will shortly take place, voters should forthwith inspect the registers.

LORD AMBERLEY'S COMMONS.—A very brief but curious correspondence was published a few days ago in the shape of a Parliamentary paper. On June 11, 1863, Lord Clarence Paget wrote to the Foreign Office that, on April 9 and 10, Mr. Elliott, her Majesty's Minister at Athens, Lord Amberley, his private secretary, and Mr. G. L. Conyngham, secretary of legation, had been entertained on board her Majesty's ship *Liffey* on a passage from the Piræus to Kalamaki, and he wished to know whether the expense was to be borne by the public. On June 12, 1863, Mr. C. H. Pennell, on behalf of the Admiralty, wrote to the Foreign Office stating that, from April 10 to April 15, Mr. Elliott, Lord Amberley, and Mr. Conyngham had been entertained on board her Majesty's ship *Phoebe*, "at the table of the Captain," on a passage from Corinth to Ancona; and he, too, wanted to know if the expense was to be borne by the public. On June 13 Mr. Hammond replies to both letters that Earl Russell "is of opinion that the expenses incurred for the entertainment of Mr. Elliott and suite on board her Majesty's ships *Phoebe* and *Liffey* should be borne by the public." The affair has been the subject of remark in the House of Commons.

VISIT OF THE FRENCH FLEET TO ENGLAND.—The *Avenir National* of the 19th inst. says:—"The squadron which will assemble this summer at Cherbourg will consist of five vessels—the *Magenta* and the *Flandre*, now at Cherbourg; the *Heroine*, expected from L'Orient; and the *Valoreuse* and the *Magicienne*, from Brest. The *Gauloise*, recently launched at the latter port, will not go to Cherbourg until the autumn. This squadron, which is to go to Plymouth and there meet the English iron-clad squadron, will, it is stated, be commanded by Rear-Admiral Dupuy. Among the vessels in course of construction at Cherbourg are four ironclads. The construction of the iron-clad turreted ram *Marengo* is being actively pushed forward at Toulon. The ram *Taureau* will carry only one gun in her iron tower. This monster cannon, rifled and hooped, will weigh twenty-two tons and discharge projectiles of 250 kilograms (about 550 lb.). Her engines are 500-horse power, and her assumed speed twelve miles an hour. She is furnished, also, with two screws, which will enable her to turn in a very small circle."

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SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1865.

EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

EDUCATION is a subject in which everyone is interested, and upon which most people have decided opinions, likes and dislikes, and sometimes strong and apparently unfounded prejudices. All parents nowadays like to have their children as well educated as their circumstances and opportunities will allow; and it is a hopeful sign for Ireland that the people of that country are becoming alive and anxious on the subject. Not many years have passed since education was a topic about which comparatively few of the inhabitants of the sister island gave themselves any concern. Now, however, the case is different. All are eager to promote education; but, unfortunately, few are agreed as to the agency which ought to be employed. Some think that the educational institutions of the country which are open to all should confine themselves to imparting secular instruction only, and leave religious teaching to the clergymen of the different sects to which the pupils respectively belong. Others consider that no education is of any value in which religion does not hold a prominent place; and as religion is not taught in the common schools, established while the Earl of Derby (then Lord Stanley) was Secretary for Ireland, and the Queen's Colleges, subsequently instituted by the late Sir Robert Peel, these seminaries, from the highest to the lowest, are denounced as "godless," and are fiercely attacked by zealots of both the Protestant and the Catholic parties.

On one point, however, both sides are agreed, though there is no real harmony in their agreement. Catholics and Protestants alike desire that the teaching should be under the control of their Church and be conducted by men belonging to their creed. And, as there is no possibility of any agreement ever being come to as to which sect shall have the preference, one of two courses becomes unavoidable: we must either separate secular from religious teaching, or leave each party to educate its own adherents. The first course, to our mind, would be the wiser of the two, as it would admit of all the advantages to be derived from a national system, where young men of all sects would meet on a common ground, be indoctrinated with knowledge necessary to all, and, by mingling together on terms of equality in youth, be less likely to imbibe and retain through life those religious rancours and bitternesses which for centuries have been the bane of Ireland. There seems no good reason why the son of a Roman Catholic and the son of a Protestant should not sit on the same form in school, be taught out of the same class-books, strive for the same prizes, and at a later period listen to the same lectures in national colleges, and compete for the same degrees in a national University. We can see no cause in the nature of things why instruction in English, in the classics, in modern languages, in the sciences, and in those branches of education which fit men for the business of life, either in commercial or professional pursuits, should not be imparted to all alike in the same institutions and by the same masters. This need in no way interfere with instruction in the tenets of the particular sect to which a pupil happens to belong; for ample facilities for religious tuition could easily be afforded to all.

But this, however reasonable, is precisely what neither Protestants nor Catholics will agree to. Both insist upon religious instruction, neither will accept that instruction at the hands of the other, and both unite in denouncing the National Schools and Queen's Colleges, simply because no sectarianism is taught in them. This is a state of feeling which, we think, is to be regretted, because it seems to indicate a fear on the part of the clergy of each denomination—with whom the opposition to the secular system mainly if not wholly originates—of losing their hold over the minds of the rising generation; though why they should entertain such a fear we cannot understand. Surely, the minds of well-instructed and intelligent youths must be in a better condition for receiving religious knowledge and religious impressions than those of utterly illiterate bores. Still, however greatly we may regret this opposition to purely secular instruction, the prejudice against it is a fact, and must be recognised. What, in these circumstances, is the best course to pursue? That, we think, which was shadowed forth by the members of the Government who took part in the debate on The O'Donoghue's motion on Tuesday night—namely, to let each religious body conduct the education of its own adherents in its own way, and institute a common University, where all may compete freely for degrees in those branches of education which are common to all. For this purpose the recently-established Catholic University could be incorporated in the existing Queen's University; Trinity College, Dublin, could remain as it is; and all—Catholics, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians—could go up to either the Queen's University or Trinity College for their degrees, as they thought fit. Of

course, all members of the Queen's University, whatever their creed, ought to have a share in the government of that institution. There should be no exclusiveness, no preferences; and we should hope, therefore, that there would be no dissensions. Where all have a like share of power and a like share of privileges and advantages, there ought to be no room for jealousies and contentions. Should the Government bring forward the plan indicated by Sir George Grey, we hope it will be frankly accepted by our Roman Catholic fellow-subjects. It will remove the grievances as to degrees and University rule under which they now labour, and, at the same time, retain an institution capable of giving real value to the honours it conferred. Degrees are only of worth in proportion to the standing, dignity, and importance of the body from which they emanate. Academic honours obtained from a really national University must always rank far higher than those conferred by a merely sectarian college. The degrees of B.A., M.A., M.D., LL.D., and so on, of the "Queen's University of Ireland," would ever have a far higher value than the same honours conferred by the "Catholic University of Dublin."

As regards the primary and middle-class schools we need be under no apprehension. They are doing their work well, and are numerous and attended, despite the opposition of the clergy of both the Catholic and Protestant persuasions. Nor can we agree that the Queen's Colleges have been altogether failures, though they may not have accomplished all that was expected from them, since they and the lower schools have imparted such an amount of instruction as to make the Irish people awake to the value and importance of education, to which, in by-gone times, the great bulk of them paid so little heed. Had the Irish national schools and the Queen's Colleges done no more than this, they would have amply repaid the care and expense that have been bestowed upon them.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY, accompanied by the younger members of the Royal family, returned to Windsor Castle last week from Balmoral.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH received Prince Napoleon on Monday. This was the first meeting of the cousins since the famous Ajaccio speech and its consequences.

TUESDAY was the anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, and the usual loyal demonstrations took place. Princess Helena held a Drawing-room, at St. James's Palace, on her Majesty's behalf.

THE HON. RICHARD BETHELL, son of the Lord Chancellor, was arrested for debt, on Ascot-heath, last week, committed to Reading Gaol, and has been adjudicated a bankrupt.

GLADIATEUR has been bought by the directors of the State studs of France for 200,000 francs.

MR. COX, M.P., has commenced an action for libel against *Punch*.

A DIRECT STEAM-PACKET COMMUNICATION is about to be established between Dartmouth and St. Malo.

MR. GEORGE LYALL, M.P., and Mr. R. N. Fowler, have started for the City on Conservative principles. The Liberal candidates are Baron Lionel Rothschild, Mr. R. W. Crawford, Mr. Guesen, and Mr. Alderman Lawrence, ex-Lord Mayor.

VISCOUNT GORT has been elected to the vacancy in the Irish Representative Peerage caused by the death of the Earl of Desart. The Earl of Listowel, who was the other candidate, had thirty-six votes; Lord Gort, seventy-one.

THE SUCCESS of the *Owl* has induced some gentlemen, members of one of the principal clubs in Pall-mall, to start a humorous rival, under the title of the *Bat*.

MRS. MARY ANN SARAH, wife of Mr. Letchfield Binkes, of London, who, in conjunction with her husband, was a claimant of the Dunmow fitch, died a few days ago.

EXTENSIVE RAVAGES have been made by caterpillars in Devonshire, in the Lake district, and in Upper Furness. Both forest and fruit trees have suffered severely.

THE COUNTRY HAS NOW TWENTY-SIX IRON-PLATED SHIPS AFLOAT and six in process of building. There are also five floating batteries: making thirty-seven in all of this modern class of vessels.

THE COMMITTEES OF MR. J. S. MILL AND CAPTAIN GROSVENOR have coalesced, and are now canvassing Westminster conjointly against Mr. W. H. Smith, Conservative.

SEVERAL SEIZURES FOR CHURCH RATES on the property of members of the Society of Friends have recently been made near Garstang.

THE FARMERS OF VIRGINIA have fixed upon five dollars per month as the price they would pay for negro labour this season—the negro to clothe himself and pay his own doctor's bills.

A JEW BROKER was standing on an oil-tub at an auction, held the other day at Birmingham, when, in the excitement of "going, going, gone!" he stamped the staves loose and disappeared in the oil.

A HOUSE in the town of Kozlow, in the government of Tamlow, Russia took fire on May 21, during a high wind, and the flames spread with such fury that 2400 houses and four churches were burnt before they could be extinguished.

DR. JEUNE, the Bishop of Peterborough, will be entitled to take his seat in the House of Lords, in consequence of the death of the Bishop of Chester. As junior Bishop, he will act as chaplain until a vacancy occurs in a diocese other than Canterbury, York, London, Durham, and Winchester.

A COLLISION took place on Monday evening on the Great Western Railway, near Wolverhampton, between a broad-gauge coal-train from that town and a narrow-gauge goods-train, which was coming down from Dudley. Five of the loaded coal-trucks were shattered by the shock, and the engine of the goods-train was damaged, but the drivers and firemen escaped without injury.

TWO HUNDRED EXCURSIONISTS INSURANCE TICKETS were issued by the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company for the train that ran off the line at Rednal, and some of the injured in the collision near Keynsham and in the disaster at Staplehurst also insured. Mr. James Dunn, who was killed, had only paid 4d. for a return journey insurance ticket, and his family became entitled to £500.

THE BROODS OF GROUSE never came out better, and already on all the lower ranges of moors they are on wing, trying short flights. The average number in the broods is generally said to be ten. Although deer suffered a good deal from the severe storm in winter, the unusually fine spring brought out early grass, so that they are now in good condition, and there are many fine-formed heads to be seen already.

IN THE ACTION OF DAMAGES at the instance of Theresa Longworth, or Yelverton, against the Hon. Mrs. (Forbes) Yelverton, recently debated before the Lord Ordinary (Jerriswood) in the Outer House of the Court of Session in Scotland, his Lordship has given a decision dismissing the action and making the plaintiff liable for the costs.

THE SUBMARINE TELEGRAPH CABLE between Marsala and the Algerian coast has been laid. Direct telegraphic communication is now therefore open between Europe and Algeria.

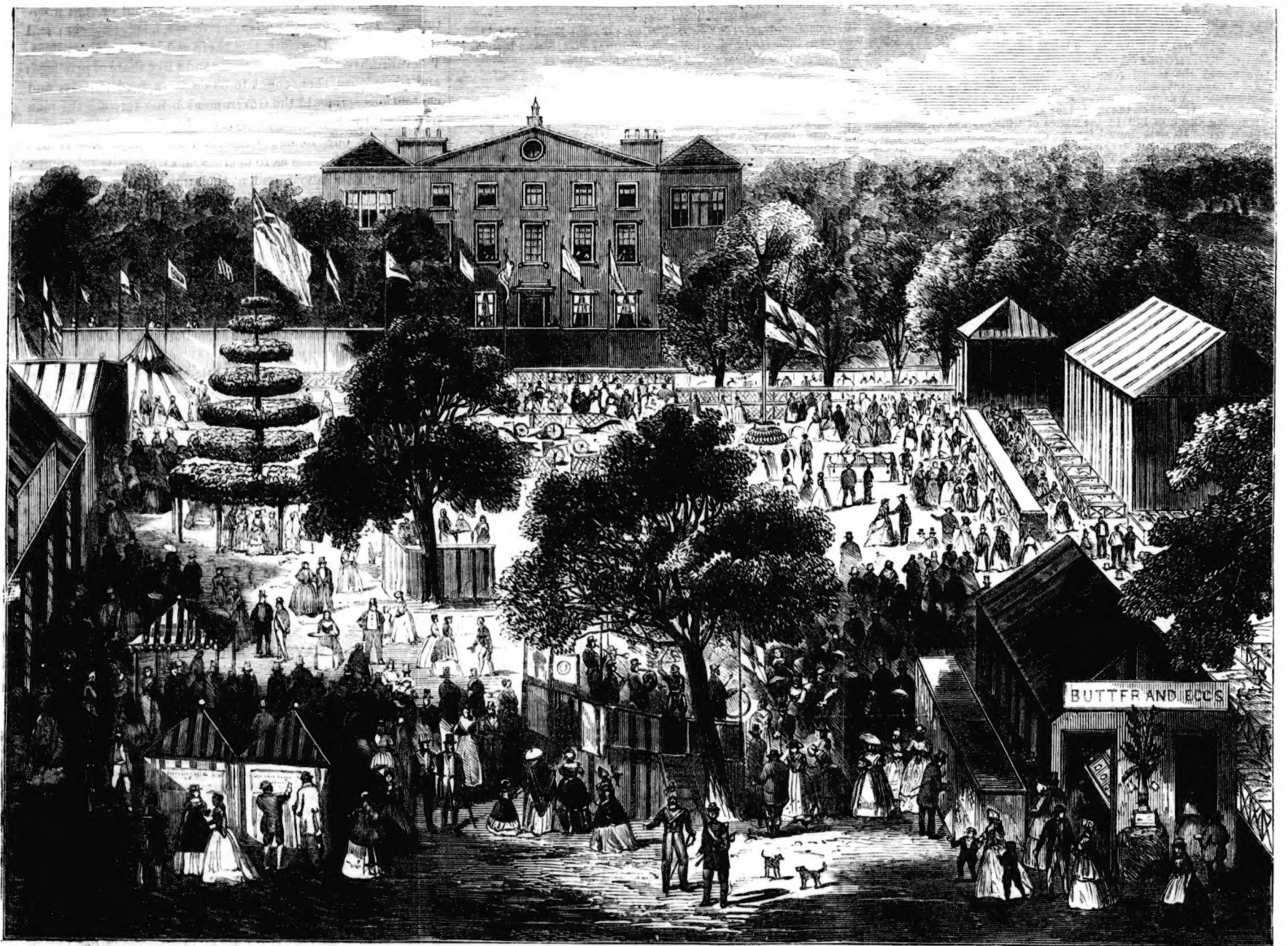
THE BAND OF ITALIAN BRIGANDS who had an English gentleman named Moens in captivity have been dispersed, and many of the robbers killed. No tidings, it is reported, have been obtained of their prisoner.

MR. EATON, CONSERVATIVE, has been elected for Coventry, in place of the late Sir Joseph Paxton, by a majority of 253 over Mr. Mason Jones, Radical. Sir Arthur Buller has been returned, without opposition, for Liskeard, in the room of Mr. Bernal Osborne, resigned.

THE NATIVES OF WALES resident in London have presented the Rev. Owen Thomas, of Jewin-street Chapel, with a half-length portrait of himself, on occasion of his leaving the metropolis for Liverpool, as a token of their affection and esteem.

THE OPERATIONS OF THE RELIEF COMMITTEES in the manufacturing districts have been suspended and the Government Inspector has been recalled, the state of affairs being so satisfactory that no further need of their services exists.

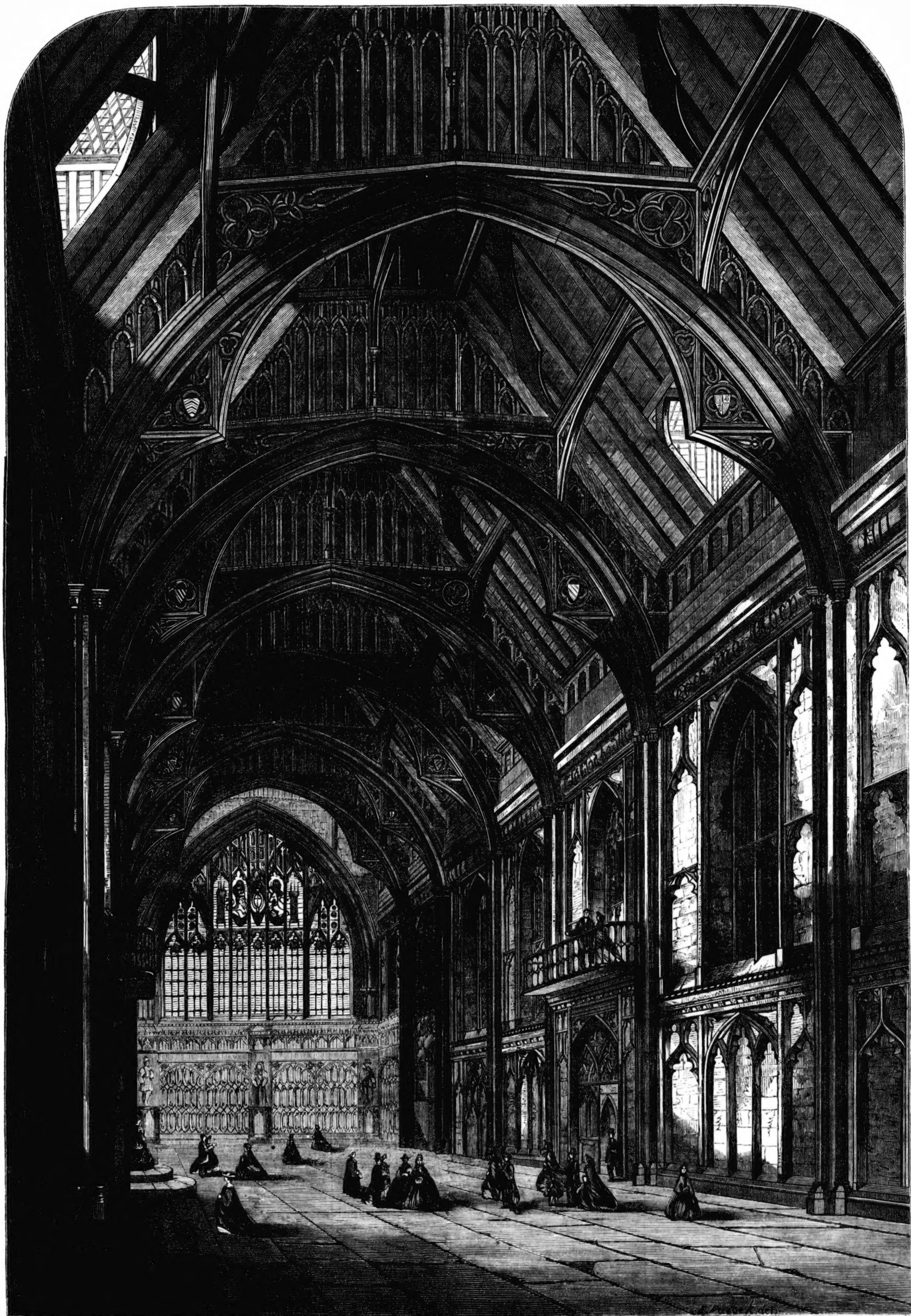
THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY will, on and after July 1, be open to the public three days in the week—viz., on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. During the months of July and August the gallery will be open from ten to six, and during September from ten till five. From Oct. 1 till April 1 the gallery will be closed at four o'clock.



THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL SHOW OF THE FHORNE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY—(FROM A SKETCH BY J. CONSTABLE.)



THE DUTCH AND BELGIAN COURTS IN THE DUBLIN EXHIBITION.



INTERIOR OF THE GUILDHALL, LONDON, AS RESTORED.

THORNE AGRICULTURAL SHOW.

THE Thorne Agricultural Society, of whose annual show, which was held on Wednesday, the 14th inst., we publish an Illustration, has now been established thirteen years, and its growth from miniature to mammoth proportions is a great fact—first giving about £50 in prizes, and now upwards of £200. The exceedingly picturesque and fine-grown wood scenery of the hall and grounds belonging to Makin Durham, Esq., where the show was held through that gentleman's kindness, added much to the attractiveness of the whole. No less than eight silver cups, two silver-mounted hunting-whips, and a silver butter-knife, besides various sums of money were awarded in prizes. The cups were of London workmanship, and obtained through Mr. Thomas Kellitt, silversmith, of Thorne. They were awarded as follows:—Edward Coulman, Esq., of Plains House, Thorne, for the best pair of draught horses; G. Wakefield, Esq., of Messingham, for the best roadster; E. Hodgkinson, Esq., of Morton Grange, for the best pony; R. E. Duckering, Esq., of Northope, for the best pig on the ground; Charles Stanley, Esq., Steetly, Worksop, for the best pen of game fowls (cock and hen) of any breed; Mr. Aykroyd, of Bradford, for the best game cock; Master C. Crossland, of Wakefield, for the best game bantams; Mr. Winder, of Newton, for the best pen of sheep in the yard; R. D. Job, Esq., of Martin, a silver-mounted hunting-whip, for the best three-year-old gelding or filly; Mr. Wiseman, of Thorne, a silver-mounted hunting-whip, for the second-best pony under thirteen hands high; Miss Outram, of Sykehouse, a silver butter-knife, for the best pound of butter. There were altogether ninety-four classes and upwards of 900 entries for competition. The day was beautifully fine, and many thousands of visitors attended from all parts, £150 being taken for admission at the gates, exclusive of members who were admitted by subscription ticket. The show altogether was a complete success, much of which was due to the exertions of the society's honorary secretary, Mr. Joseph Richardson, who was two years ago presented with a splendid testimonial, consisting of a massive silver tea and coffee service and silver teatray, of the value of 170 guineas, as a mark of public esteem.

THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE Dublin Exhibition still continues to prosper. The shilling admission has been in operation for some time, and large numbers of persons have availed themselves of the opportunity of inspecting the splendid collection of the products of art and industry presented to them. Our Engraving represents the Dutch and Belgian Courts, which are replete with specimens of the products of both countries. The laces of Belgium especially attract attention, as that branch of manufacture has for some time been established in some districts of Ireland, and a comparison of the native and foreign product is deeply interesting to those concerned in promoting Irish industry. The superiority of the Belgium fabric as a whole is freely admitted; but, in some points, the Irish article comes well out of the ordeal of comparison, and it is expected that valuable hints will be obtained for still further efforts to improve the native manufacture.

THE RENOVATIONS AT GUILDHALL.

THE improvements which have so long been in progress in the interior of Guildhall are now almost completed, as far as the restoration of the roof is concerned, an additional grant of £6000 which was voted a day or two ago being intended for the carrying out of other details which have been rendered necessary by the altered appearance of the building; that is to say, for the construction of four turrets and two pinnacles, and the erection of a spire. The lantern and spire rises 50 ft. above the ridge of the roof, while the spires on each end of the roof are 20 ft. in height. The turrets, which occupy the south-east and south-west angles of the hall, are constructed of Kentish ragstone, and give a very imposing effect to the building. The City architect has already reported to the committee that he considers other works necessary to preserve the general effect and character of the hall, and that it is desirable to proceed with them at once—namely, the repair and restoration of the internal stonework of the tracery under the windows; the substitution of marble, purbeck or serpentine, for the plain painted shafts of the clustered columns, and the completion of the internal jambs of the side windows, at an estimated cost of £3080. It is likewise in contemplation to alter the position and height of the monuments in Guildhall, at a further expense of £350, and to erect a screen at the east end of the hall, with a bustings in carved oak, at an additional cost of £2400. The committee also recommend the erection, at the western end, of a raised gallery, corresponding with the Ancient Minstrels' Gallery, which usually occupied a prominent position in similar buildings, at an expense not exceeding £1250. They likewise recommend the adoption of sixteen gaseliers—after a certain design, with a sun-burner under the louvre for purposes of ventilation—for lighting the hall upon all occasions of public entertainment, at the cost of £2250. The whole estimated cost of these several contemplated repairs and alterations amounts to £15,348.

When these improvements are completed, and the fine groups of sculpture raised to a more prominent position, the present renovation will be of greater extent than any which has taken place since the reconstruction of the building after the Great Fire. Throughout its history, however, Guildhall has been subject to considerable alterations; for the south porch, which was completed in the reign of Henry VI., was very greatly changed from the original design during the time either of Elizabeth or James I., the precise date being uncertain.

As far as the exterior appearance is concerned, the whole front area of Guildhall and the approach by the main entrance are changed, for on the space on the right now occupied by the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas Guildhall chapel formerly stood. This chapel, which adjoined the civic library and part of Blackwell Hall, occupied a very prominent place in the ancient archives of the City. It is said to have been originally founded, in 1299, as "London College," and afterwards, in 1355, endowed with various grants from tenements and lands, being ultimately purchased from King Edward VI. for £456 18s. 4d. On the 30th of October, 1444, the chapel itself was dedicated to the Blessed Mary Magdalen and All Saints.

In the dire confusion of the terrible reign of Mary the priests of this chapel seem to have grown disorderly, continuing to wander about, contrary to the orders of the foundation; to put a stop to which the Chamberlain seized the lands and paid the priests according to their merit, one of them being committed to Newgate for disobedience to the chapel warden. At this time (1554) mass was said in Guildhall three days a week, for which £5 a year was paid to the officiating "clerk," who, perhaps to make up for his small salary, was provided with "a comely chalice of silver, book, and vestments, together with a winter living-gown." It is strange to discover that at this time, even as it might be in our own day, there were disputes about the insufficient dinners given by the Lord Mayor, and there may have been some grumblers who, not unreasonably, objected to "a law preferred to the Common Council for cutting off feasts and dinners at halls," as well as against "eating venison out of season."

The chapel was not pulled down till 1822, and the books, registers, and remaining monuments belonging to it were deposited in the churches of St. Lawrence, Jewry, and St. Mary Magdalen in Milk-street.

The present roof of Guildhall may well be called a restoration, for it was only after the Great Fire that Sir Christopher Wren altered the shapes of the windows, cased the front with stone, and substituted the ceiling with which we have all been familiar for an open roof of timber-work similar to that of Westminster Hall. Of this old roof a writer describing the Great Fire, says that the timber was taken "without flame, and stood in a bright shining coal, as if it had been a palace of gold or a great building of burnished brass."

The present roof, then, is, as far as may be, a restoration of that more ancient one. It was so far advanced even towards the end of

last year that the hall was used for the banquet on Lord Mayor's Day, and the committee state that on that occasion many eminent archaeologists and men high in the profession of architecture pronounced the new roof to be a great success, in keeping with the hall and the period in which it was erected.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE last vote of Supply is got, the Appropriation Bill is on the table, and, by the end of next week, the House of Commons will have cleared its paper of all business, and will be waiting for the Lords. Rumours say that it will have to wait long—more than a week; some say a fortnight. My Lords, it appears, are much behind with their private business. Indeed, Lord Redesdale, who is the great authority in the Upper House, says that Parliament cannot possibly rise before the 15th; but then we generally, at the end of the Session, have some doleful prophetic utterance of this sort from his Lordship. "The 15th! a fortnight after the House of Commons shall have finished, and hundreds of candidates spending the while money at the rate of a hundred pounds a day; nay, more; in counties, perhaps, a thousand a day would hardly cover the cost. No, my Lord, this will never do. You must lengthen your sittings. Sit on Saturdays; and, by hook or by crook, let us go, at furthest, by the 8th; for, besides the money we are spending, think of our agonising suspense!" I venture to think that the 8th will be the day. I know that the Government is very anxious to get the House up; and, if private business cannot all be got through by that time, that which remains unfinished must "be hung up" till next Session—that is to say, a short bill must be passed to enable the promoters to commence next Session at the stages which their bills shall have reached at the prorogation. This course was taken in 1857, and again in 1859.

The prophets have already begun to forecast the results of the elections. I met my old friend Blogg the other day, and he told me—But I may as well report our conversation. Blogg: "I have been going over all the counties and boroughs of England and Wales, and it's my opinion that there will be great change in the men, but little in the two parties. I don't think that our fellows will gain; I suspect that they will lose a few votes. This Parliament, you know, was elected when Derby was in office, and the Government of the day always commands a few votes." "But what of Scotland and Ireland?" "Oh, in Scotland, matters will remain, I suspect, much as they are. The Scotch are almost all Rads, confound them! And as to Ireland, Monsell has tricked us out of the finest chance that we ever had. Doosed clever trick that of Monsell's—a capital trump card that Oath Bill. Major Dogherty tells me, and he knows as well as any man living, that it has completely taken the wind out of our sails there." "Palmerston cannot, though, have a strong Government?" "Strong Government! no; nobody will ever have a strong Government again, as he is to keep in. I wish he could get more strength." "Do you?" Well, I confess I do not." "Do not? why not, my Radical friend?" "Why, because I remember the old saying, the people always get most out of weak Governments. At all events, weak Governments cannot do much harm; and I have learned by experience that the propensity to do harm is always stronger in Governments than the wish to do good. If Palmerston had been strong enough, he would have gone to war on that Danish business, as sure as your name's Blogg!" "Mr. Lounger, you are the most out-and-out Radical that I ever saw." "By-the-way, Blogg, what do you hear about Palmerston retiring?" "Nothing. But it's my opinion that he will never give up the reins till they drop from his hands." "And that is my notion." "Not he; he means to die in harness. And I hope the old fellow will live another ten years, if it's only to keep you confounded Rads in check; for nobody can do it as he can. Gad! what changes we shall have when he goes. It will be like breaking down a sluic-gate."

"Tell me," said Blogg, continuing the talk as we walked down Parliament-street, "have you heard that Colonel Taylor's seat for Dublin county is shaky?" "Yes." "And is it true?" "I suspect it is. His opponent is Lord Annaly's son, brother of Luke White, one of the Government whips, and I am told that he will certainly whip the Colonel. These Whites are awfully rich, and have always poured out their money at elections like water." "I say! It would be a sad blow to the Conservatives to lose the Colonel, for I take him to be the best whip they have ever had." "True; but from what I hear the loss may possibly be balanced." "How?" "Why, Brand is not safe at Lewes." "By Jove! You don't say so. Well, that would be droll, to have both the chief whips turned out. Egad! I'll take that news to the Carlton. But, first, what do you hear about the City? Shall we get a Conservative in there?" "It is impossible to say. I should, though, think not. In 1861 you had, in Alderman Cabbitt, the most popular candidate that ever stood; and Western Wood, a man almost unknown, beat him by 500 votes. No Conservative has been returned since 1852." "And who are to be the Finsbury men?" "Ah! there's a coil. Five men in the field, and all of one party. If money can carry it, Lusk is sure; for he is squandering money broadcast. £10,000 will not do more than pay his expenses, whether he win or lose; but money does not always carry it in Finsbury. In 1861 Remington Mills spent thousands, and was beaten by Cox, who spent nothing. If all the five, or even four, should stand, Cox will, I suspect, be sure to get in again; but it is impossible to guess what will happen in a borough with 25,000 voters." "Well, it's no matter. They will be Rads, whoever they are; and so, good-day to you! Mr. Lounger. May the best man win!" Not a strong politician is Blogg, I suspect. He wears Conservatism for the same reason that he wears patent boots.

The Duke of Brunswick has been sued again! This time by the Countess de Chivry for 35,000 francs, but the lady lost her cause, and the remarkable Duke was triumphant. A report, which has been traced to a Spanish journal, has been circulating in Paris that the aforesaid amiable young nobleman is about to lead to the hymeneal altar Isabelle. Those of your readers who may not know who Isabelle is are hereby informed that the young lady is the *fleur-de-lis* by appointment to the Paris Jockey Club. I saw her the other day, at Chantilly, gorgeous of costume and radiant of smile. In dress, hat, and general appearance she affects the "Figlia del Reggimento." She is tall and gentle—that is to say, passably good-looking, and no more. I never addressed the young lady, nor purchased a flower of her; indeed, I doubt whether she would sell one to any but a member of "le club;" but I trust, for Isabelle's sake, the club will not permit its protégée to stoop to such a *méalliance*. Surely she may look higher than a Duke of Brunswick!

The *Fortnightly Review* I have this time looked at a little carefully. What distinguishes it more particularly is not the superior "talent" of its articles, using this word in its usual sense, but their superior goodness, their beauty and sweetness, and generosity of tone, and the boldness with which they advance upon the boundary line at which even "talented" people (talented is a vile word) begin to raise the cry of "Sentimental!" Have any of your readers been to see Mr. Hamerton's "Exhibition" in Piccadilly (of his own pictures), and received the volume of poems (his own) in exchange for their shilling? If so—or, indeed, if not—they will follow with willing interest a paper by Mr. Hamerton on the "Artistic Spirit" in the last number. It is fortunate for us all that there are people like Mr. Hamerton and Mr. F. Harrison, who contribute a very good paper indeed on the "Limits of Political Economy." This seems to me an unfortunate title, inevitably suggesting another paper on the Limits of those Limits, and so on, to all eternity, which is confusing. But I may venture to call the attention of the general reader to the writings of Mr. Harrison (the name is almost new to me) as worthy of the very best attention he can give. They present every characteristic of careful thinking, careful writing, and nobility of spirit. It is a very striking fact—a fact which demands to be well weighed by students of the moral *indicia* of the philosophical school—that the Positive school of thought presents so many and such luminous examples of this nobility of tone.

Dr. Strauss, a gentleman well known in literary circles for his extensive learning and extraordinary conversational powers, is about bringing out a novel, which will be entitled "The Old Ledger."

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Only one new piece has been produced during the past week, a farce, by Mr. John Maddison Morton, at the ST. JAMES'S, called "Pouter's Wedding." The clever author of "Box and Cox" cannot be congratulated on his treatment of a capital three-act French piece, "Les Noces des Merluchet." "Les Noces" was dated as far back as the reign of Louis XV.—a period when it was possible that the *droits du seigneur* might be exercised. "Pouter's Wedding" is supposed to occur in the present day, when seigniorial privileges are impossible, and prevailing fashions render the assumption of men's clothes by women and women's clothes by men a funny incident for the comic scene of a pantomime, but a disguise too easily to be detected for the purposes of farce. Another mistake of the adaptor is the occurrence of the imbrogio in an exterior in the broad light of day. In the French piece the probability of the equivocal is aided by night, lamps, and alternations of light and darkness. Indeed, what with the frequent changes of costume, the incongruity of a modern alderman ordering about with the despotism of a pre-revolutionary French Marquis—the utter unreason of the whole thing—my impression was that I was witnessing a ballet d'action; and when Mr. Robson pulled off his coat and "pitched into" Mr. Frank Matthews, gave that gentleman "a drive in the stomach" (I quote from the dialogue), and finished by smashing his hat over his eyes, that impression was confirmed. I felt sorry for Mr. Frank Matthews. His abilities deserve a better field. Both he and Mrs. Frank Matthews acted admirably; indeed, to give such artists such parts is like harnessing race-horses to sand-carts. Mr. Robson played the countryman Pouter very well indeed. This young gentleman will some day be in the front rank of his profession. He is no mere droll. There is a purpose in all his fun. He is like his father in more than mere personal resemblance. Having said that "Pouter's Wedding" is not a good farce, and that not even the peculiarities of dialogue, for which Mr. Morton is famous, can atone for its wildness and want of form—let me say that the majority of the audience were of a contrary opinion, and laughed and applauded with an enthusiasm worthy of a better piece and cooler weather. Particularly were one or two allusions to the difference of the sexes—which it would have been better had the Licensor struck out or the ladies and gentlemen on the stage refused to utter—received with roars of delight that astonished me, even when I remembered that the audience was a mixed assemblage and that these are very fast days indeed.

Mr. John Parry's admirers—and their names are in the London and County Directories—will be pleased to hear that he is to be seen at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION in another new musical entertainment, which is entitled "Recollections." It begins with an overture framed on the "dissolving view" principle. Recitatives, airs, bars, and motives from Meyerbeer and snatches from the music-halls are blended together after the manner peculiar to Mr. John Parry. The "Recollections" are supposed to be musical memoranda jotted down in the course of Mr. Parry's professional career. We have an imitation of a tenor singer, who, during his serenade, is embarrassed by a nail in the stage, and a study of the "styles" of several young ladies at the piano—of Agatha, who plays "Auld Robin Gray" with proper expression; of Amy, who executes the Spanish waltz with promising expression; and of Arabella, who manipulates "Non piu mesta" with excruciating expression. Lastly, Agnes trills off "The Last Rose of Summer" with variations like graduated fireworks. She has "too much expression." The new illustration concludes with the rehearsal of a duo between an operatic basso and a soprano. With what musical and instrumental felicity these sketches are portrayed I need not say, having said that the pianist, vocalist, and actor is, or rather *are*, Mr. John Parry.

"The Menken" has returned to the scenes of her former triumphs at ASTLEY'S. The advertisement announcing this fact is such a gem that it must be enshrined in your columns. It is too good to perish:—

Return of that public favourite, the daring and graceful actress, Miss Adah Isaacs Menken. Thousands failed to obtain admission during her late engagement at Astley's, and, in consequence of her previous arrangements, she could not remain longer in London to gratify the wishes of numerous friends and patrons. The happy termination of the war recalls her to America; but, before leaving England, Mr. E. T. Smith has secured her services for Astley's for only a few nights. Her second appearance will be this evening in the spectacle of "Mazeppa," which elicited nightly peals of approbation and the hearty recognition of the public press. This graceful and classic actress is the first of all those who have appeared in the character of Mazeppa who has dared actually to ride on the bare-backed steed up the rakes of the theatre. A dummy hitherto has been lashed to the horse, and the Lessee begs to inform his patrons they will find "no dummy" representing the part at Astley's, but the beautiful and graceful actress, admired and encouraged by the thousands who have witnessed her performance. When Miss Menken returns to America she will be able to assure the Americans that the people of England have received her kindly, cheered her heartily, patronised her liberally, and bestowed upon her the real English "Hurrah!"

The advertisement is worthy the approbation of the late George Robins.

At DRURY LANE on Tuesday, at two p.m., the curtain is to rise on the performances for Mr. Leigh Murray's complimentary benefit. There is to be a selection from "Masks and Faces," with the Adelphi celebrities; two scenes from "Twelfth Night," with the Haymarket ditto; a "Regular Fix," with Mr. Sothorn; a concert, with Alfred Mellon, Miss Louisa Pyne, Sainton-Dolby, Mr. Santley, and Herr Meyer Lutz; "The Willow Copse," with Mr. Toole and Miss Woolgar. Mr. Robson is to sing "Villikins," Mr. and Mrs. Howard Paul are to give a portion of their entertainment, and Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Murray appear in an *ad hoc* scene written expressly for the occasion by Mr. Shirley Brooks. Certainly enough for money both in quantity and quality, to say nothing of the admirable object of the testimonial.

While talking of benefits, let me mention that Mr. Toole's benefit at the ADELPHI is fixed for the 29th; and that the house is sure to be crowded, as is usual whenever Mr. Toole takes a benefit at the Adelphi or any other theatre.

Mr. Walter Montgomery opens the HAYMARKET in a few weeks—that is, as soon as the present firm of Buckstone and Sothorn retires for the summer recess—for the performance of the legitimate drama; and we are again to see Mdle. Stella Colas.

THE COMMISSIONNAIRES IN THE CITY.—Since the recent jewel robberies in the City, fifteen of the principal firms in Cornhill, including jewellers and watchmakers, have joined together in availing themselves of the services of members of the Corps of Commissionnaires for the protection of their shops and houses at nights and on Sundays, and a number of picked men have been assigned to that particular duty. Two go upon duty at seven o'clock every evening, and remain until midnight, when they are relieved by two fresh men, who keep watch and ward until six in the morning. At uncertain times in the night a superior officer goes the round assigned to the men to see that they are wide awake; and, as an additional guarantee for vigilance, toll-tale clocks, similar to those in use in the lobbies of the Houses of Parliament, are about to be adopted to show that the Commissionnaires appointed to this duty patrol their beat a given number of times during the night, or any lapse in that respect. So far, the experiment has given great satisfaction to those immediately concerned. The watchmen are exemplary for their vigilance and good conduct. A sense of security is thereby engendered; and their services, when once it becomes known that they are available for this particular purpose, will probably become in much greater request in the City and elsewhere. It may be mentioned as a result of the recent extensive robberies, that the shop of Mr. Walker, in Cornhill, where the greatest of them was committed, is now all through the night regularly lighted with gas in the interior, and exposed to the full gaze of persons passing. An iron grating incloses the whole front of the shop, in place of the ordinary shutters; and an iron safe (not, however, the one the thieves broke into—which, by-the-way, is about to be made a subject of litigation), containing all that is most costly on the premises, instead of being reflected in a mirror in a back shop, as its predecessor was at the time of the robbery, is placed in a conspicuous position in the front shop, where it is to be seen through the whole night by any one passing. The same arrangement obtains on Sundays throughout the day; and the extreme publicity thus given to the contents of the shop night and day is supposed to be the greatest safeguard against robbery.

Literature.

Characters and Criticisms: a Book of Miscellanies. By JAMES HANNAY, Author of "Essays from the Quarterly," "Singleton Fontenoy, R.N.," "Satire and Satirists," &c. W. P. Nimmo, Edinburgh.

Mr. Hannay is one of the few modern writers who have so decided a specialty that the mere mention of the name recalls the characteristic. He is probably one of the best historical critics now living, and it is impossible to take up one of his books without inferring a much larger culture than is shown on the surface of the pages. His mind is distinguished by the ready action of a certain dry light of humorous intelligence, which is always on the point of becoming wit of the best order, but seems to stop short out of mere wilfulness. The light is always the same—a *lumen siccum*; it darts, sparkles, and tingles through the air, but it never glows. Part of the piquancy of Mr. Hannay's writing is a natural result of the contrast felt by the reader between the spirit and prevailing mood of the side he takes, and the manner in which Mr. Hannay defends it. Here is a man who writes on the emotional or traditional side of things with all the coldness of an iceberg. It is true there is all the glitter, too, but

The ice is here, the ice is there,
The ice is all around.

It is just as if you looked at the monumental bronzes and recumbent statues of Knights Templars in a sparkling artificial brightness. You feel that you would rather see them in the warm sunshine thrown through a painted window.

Often in reading Mr. Hannay, one alights upon a real nugget of thought, and he is always brilliant and readable. We can cheerfully commend the book to a cultivated public.

"Their Majesties' Servants;" or, Annals of the English Stage, from Thomas Betterton to Edmund Kean. By Dr. DORAN, F.S.A. Second Edition. W. H. Allen and Co.

This is a second edition, revised, collected, and enlarged, of the most entertaining of Dr. Doran's works. A preface speaks of various improvements—compression of details that were too diffuse, omission of passages not bearing directly on the subject, correction of errors, and addition of narrative which served further to illustrate the story. The book may now be pronounced as perfect as books are ever likely to be, and quite fitted to take up a permanent position as one of the family in quarters—or, rather, on shelves—where hitherto it has been only a welcome guest. It is one of those volumes which nobody reads through, but in time reads over and over again. You "dip" into it and devour the three pages of Quin's wonderful humour, regretting that Smollet dismissed him so briefly in "Humphrey Clinker." Or the genius and vagaries combined of the Kemble family attract attention, when the bell rings; and after the visitor has gone you alight upon Killigrew and Davenant, the much used-up Dryden and Shadwell affair, the miracle plays, eternal Shakespeare, and, for a great number of pages, the equally eternal Garrick. With much that must be familiar to all conversationalists, and much that seems to have been mislaid for the sake of the antiquaries, the bulk is derived from authorities so numerous as to be familiar only to Museum students or special collectors of theatrical libraries. A storehouse of stage history and anecdote, now made so accessible, should prove a warning to storytellers and put diners-out on their guard.

Under the Waves; or, The Hermit-Crab "in Society." By ANNIE E. RIDLEY. Sampson Low and Co.

This is a handsome little volume of seaside zoology for very young people. A hermit-crab gets tired of a sedentary life, and resolves on seeing the world. He takes up a temporary residence in a Devonshire bay, and all the familiar inhabitants of the aquarium quarrel, fight, and tell their own history and peculiarities in turns. The personal and conversational tone may have its attractions for childhood, but, as a medium for instruction, it makes the information far too loose and disordered to satisfy really inquiring minds. But the book cannot profess to go deeper than the surface of Mr. Gosse's volumes and Mr. Lewes' "Seaside Studies," whilst it certainly misses much of Mr. Kingsley's peculiar charm in "Glaucus." Nevertheless, the lessons inculcated—the oysters, crabs, shrimps, &c., being made so many beacons to light up human nature—are prettily and quaintly given, and are well calculated to make children reflect. But the plan of making the wonders of the deep talk over their experiences—the giving them a dramatic vitality, in fact—is dangerous, and leads to amusing blunders. Thus, the barnacle says that he knows all the world and has seen everything from having clung on to the bottom of a ship, but subsequently, speaking of the changes undergone by barnacles, he says:—"Legs were no longer of any use, so they changed into arms fitted for fishing with; the eyes, too, were put away, for it was useless to look at the ship, and, as we had fastened ourselves by our feelers, there was no other direction in which we could look." A wonder of the deep, indeed, to see all the world without eyes!

NEW NOVELS

Sir Felix Foy, Bart. By DUTTON COOK. Sampson Low and Co. 3 vols.

The people who write three-volume novels, the people who read them, and the people who review them may all in their turns be, naturally enough, the subjects of a good deal of surprise. The hardest work of all is, doubtless, that of those who write them; and how they do write them is one of the standing puzzles of modern life. When you consider the immense amount of paper that you must cover, in order to fill three volumes, and the sensation of utter uselessness that must come over you when the work is done, you may well wonder how it is that novels are produced so plentifully. No doubt the chief explanation is that they sell—which brings us to the readers. And here we are lost in amazement again. What scores—what hundreds of thousands—of people there must be, of a certain degree of intelligence and goodness, represented by, say, "the bald-headed man at the back of the omnibus" and the lady who sat next one at church on Sunday, who actually do read steadily through three-volume novels, and get good out of them! It is a common thing to ask where the people all come from that live in the houses; but a person lives in a house because he wants shelter. What, however, does he read a three-volume novel for? "For amusement." But, unless the novel be one of ten thousand, he might, one would imagine, get more amusement by looking out at the window or taking a ride in an omnibus—which last is, indeed, a cheap and easy form of amusing one's self too little thought of.

And now we come to the reviewers of novels. The reviewers of the majority of three-volume stories, we take to be comparatively inexperienced people, who have either not read much or who have a happy faculty of no-memory, so that they can read this week something very much like what they read last week and fancy it is new. Next to the work of the writers of novels (young ladies who have "experience" to work up excepted, for they, no doubt, delight in production) the work of the reviewers of novels is the hardest.

We do not mean to say that it is hard work either to read or to review Mr. Dutton Cook. On the contrary, he is one of the pleasantest of the novelists who do not aim at strong or bright effects. "Sir Felix Foy" is a great improvement (we think) upon his other books; any way, it is a very readable, interesting novel, in which there is real character, real observation of life, real humour, and a real story. Sometimes, as in nearly all novels, we find unnatural speeches, impossible speeches—for example, that which is put into the mouth of John Payne, on page 21 of vol. iii. If the author will read over that speech and conceive a gentleman delivering such sentences at a lady in a morning call, however excited he might be, he will see how unlikely they are. But a great deal of criticism might well be spared upon every book that is written; nobody can tell how his writing will look till he sees it not only

printed but bound up in a volume; and when he does see it, it is too late to make alterations. A writer, however, who is capable of producing a readable book is also capable of a degree of self-criticism which might very well dispense with criticism from the outside.

Sir Felix Foy is an elderly, almost old, bachelor, partner in a "religious bank." His younger brother, Edwin Foy, a country clergyman, is in love with an exciseman's daughter. Sir Felix commands the junior brother (not a chick himself) to break off the intimacy and not disgrace the house of Foy by a mésalliance so absurd. But it is not long before Sir Felix himself marries an adventuress, who had, in the eye of the law, "no father." If a great deal of human "wisdom" and "virtue" is like Sir Felix Foy's family pride, it is surely not the fault of Sir Dutton Cook.

The best thing to do in order to send the general reader to a book is perhaps to quote something which he can recognise as true while it is a fair specimen of the author's powers. Let us take

HANDSELL, READYMAN, AND CO.'S BANK.

As fishermen, careful only about superior prey, restore to the sea the lesser fish which have been drawn into their nets, upon the chance of their proving at some future time more profitable captives, so Handsell and Co. were zealous only about triton customers—took little heed of the banking accounts of the minnow tribe—would, at any rate, wait until they had grown a little bigger. It was felt, in fact, that Handsell's was not a house-of-call, financially speaking, for small tradesmen. Not that these by any means abounded in the neighbourhood. The situation of the bank in Pall-mall was almost in itself a guarantee that its clients would only be found amongst the gentry of the precinct. But it seemed to be generally understood that the firm of Messrs. Handsell, Readyman, and Co. only offered their services to the elite of the land—"to those whom Providence had blessed with affluence;" to the picture and trump cards in society's pack.

As you entered or quitted the bank a functionary in a sober uniform opened the door for you, closed it after you. Probably in obedience to some long-standing order of the firm upon the subject, the clerks, for the most part, wore black clothes and white cravats. There was about them, at all events about the cashiers, a gravity of demeanour, a deferential courtesy, which seemed to be traditions of the bank-servants of the last century. The cheque you presented to them for payment they received with none of the aggressive brusqueness which distinguishes the modern bank clerk, but rather as though they were gratified at the opportunity you afforded them of being of use to you. They spoke in hushed tones, with a certain delicacy of articulation, the result, probably, of a long habit of conversing with the wealthier classes, whose position justified them in the maintenance of such luxuries as sensitive nerves and susceptible organisations. If they smiled, it was rather artificially, though not less gracefully; but mirth or enjoyment had little enough to do with the matter. They conversed very little with each other; never but in hushed voices. They never cracked jokes or puns; neither of which diversions, I am given to understand, are strangers to ordinary offices—public or private.

"Sir Felix Foy" is a kindly, entertaining novel, and we are glad to be able to commend it to our readers.

Grasp Your Nettle. A Novel. By E. LYNN LINTON, Author of "The Lake Country." Smith and Elder.

This, without being entitled to take rank as a first-class novel, is a very good story very well told. It has a good title and a good motto, with a good moral wrapped up in them. There is also a very tolerable amount of good mystery, only it turns mainly upon that apparently indispensable element in the works of modern female writers—bigamy; an element which may be useful in novels occasionally; but, as it has of late been served up *ad nauseam* by Miss Braddon and others, we are inclined to regret that the author of "Grasp Your Nettle" should have found it necessary to introduce it into the work. The nature of the mystery we will let our readers go to the work itself to learn; the title we have already quoted, and the motto is as follows:—

Tender-handed stroke a nettle,
And it stings you for your pains;
But grasp it like a man of mettle,
And it soft as silk remains.

There! Is more necessary to enable even the dullest comprehension to grasp the moral of the work before us?

As regards the other merits of the book, we can fully commend the plot and the general course of the action. The plot is well plotted, and the interest well sustained. There are likewise some fairly drawn characters—those of Mr. Trelawney (about whom the mystery hangs) and his wife (the wife that is, who figures in the story), and of the two (brother and sister) Anglo-French schemers, swindlers, or whatever the reader may choose to call them, being the best. Explain the story further we will not, for we care not to mar the interest of the novel and the pleasure of the reader by premature disclosures. We prefer, while heartily commending the work as a whole, to devote the space at our command pointing out what we deem a few faults by which it is disfigured.

A writer in a severely critical periodical lately remarked, somewhat ill-naturedly, and certainly ungallantly, that whenever, in reading a book, he frequently found a typographical character like this—standing where the sense required strong expletives to be, he knew that the work was the production of a lady. Now, we think we can point out a much better, and we hope, much truer, test than this, and one which, had we not been aware beforehand that the author of "The Lake Country" was a lady, would have satisfied us of the fact. In chapter viii. of vol. i there is an account of a tea-party, in the course of which the dresses of every one of the dozen or fifteen ladies present are described with the utmost minuteness—every shade of colour, each flourish, furbelow, ruche, fichu, and—well, we have exhausted our vocabulary of millinery phrases, and must give up the attempt to follow Mrs. Linton. But could any poor male barbarian have accomplished such a feat as those two pages of *Le Follet* jargon? We throw not; and therefore we feel that this millinery inventory is a truer as well as a juster test of the sex of an author than our contemporary's swearing criterion. Minute attention to details of female—and even male—attire is, no doubt, very natural in a lady; still, we think that, when ladies take to writing books, they might, without becoming unwomanly, occasionally forget the woman in the author.

Another fault into which we think Mrs. Linton has to some extent fallen—though only in a small degree as compared with some other popular authors—is to talk that abominable slang which describes one thing as "à la Watteau;" another as "Rembrandtish;" a third as "like a bit of Jan Steen," and so on. Mrs. Linton, from her associations, is no doubt better qualified to appreciate and to speak of art than many of those who indulge in this style of writing; but that is the very reason why she should avoid "talking shop" altogether. Then Mrs. Linton lards her pages with French words and phrases to an extent which must be both offensive and inconvenient to general readers, all of whom are not masters of French, much less of the niceties of Parisian French. Through whole speeches, and even pages, the language is an alternation of English and French, which, if the usual practice of printing foreign words in italics had been adopted, would have produced a strangely mottled effect. The use of French phrases was, to some extent, necessary in depicting Gregory Dysart and his sister; but the thing is altogether overdone, and is made positively offensive.

These are the main faults we have to find with Mrs. Linton's book; but we should like to know where she met with the original of Dr. Hale. Doctors of medicine are usually educated gentlemen; and, though they may not always be as polished in their manners as may suit the taste of the author of "Grasp Your Nettle," we scarcely think they are in the habit of misplacing their *h's*, particularly when, as Dr. Hale is represented to have been, they are educated at the University of Edinburgh, and that, too, even though they may be cockneys by birth. Whatever faults of pronunciation Dr. Hale may have acquired in Edinburgh, he would certainly have been cured of a tendency to do violence to "poor letter h."

A word of verbal criticism, and we have done with a work which has interested us so much as to induce us to take the trouble to point out its few faults. There is in Mrs. Linton's style an occasional confusion, arising from the use of too long sentences and the lack of connection between pronouns and their antecedents. We could pick out several instances of what we mean, but the following sentence will suffice:—

Whatever the Vale had been in times past, it never knew before nor since the wild excitement of the day following these events. Not that it was very

certain at the first as to what had really happened; for some said that Gregory had been murdered by Mr. Trelawney; others, that he had tried to murder Mr. Grainger and Harry Grant; some, that M^{me}. de Chantreau had claimed Jasper; and others that she had been confronted with him by her own husband, with the very device to pay—M. Delaperrière standing as lay-figure for the husband, which he could do as well as another; some, that Julia was dying of some mysterious injury done to her; and all that her children were frightfully disfigured—"mutilated," Miss Mason said, not knowing exactly what she meant.

Now, who does the *her* in the last clause of the sentence whose "children were mutilated" represent? It cannot be Julia, for *she* is one of the children; it cannot well be M^{me}. de Chantreau, for the children have already been proved *not* to be hers; and, besides, her name stands too far off in the sentence to be easily construed as the antecedent of the *her* in the concluding clause. A little attention to this matter would greatly improve Mrs. Linton's style.

Irkdale; or, The Odd House in the Hollow. A Lancashire Story. By BENJAMIN BRIERLEY, Author of "Tales and Sketches of Lancashire Life," &c. Tinsley Brothers.

By way of "beginning with a little aversion," complaint may at once be made of the powerful Lancashire element in this Lancashire story. It is of the county, all over, and one of the three or four counties which we are accustomed to look upon and love for their purely English characteristics. Lancashire is one of the noblest counties of England, and Mr. Brierley is right in taking a pride in illustrating it. But, may it not be asked if "illustration" does not in reality mean a certain species of translation?—just as pictures in a book illustrate or convey the meaning through a different sense. This translating, then, of Lancashire Mr. Brierley has not done; and the result is that ten per cent of Londoners—and the book is published in London—may read page after page without having the faintest idea of what Mr. Brierley means. Lancashire dialect, by all accounts, is rich in humour—but local humour requires even idiomatic translation.

The story illustrates virtues and vices which we hope and fear are not peculiar to any one part of our country. The period of some forty years back and later is treated, and in a most important matter some great improvement has been made. The noble art of betting on horse-races is the backbone whence the ribs of the story spring; and Mr. Brierley bears witness—eye-witness, even—to the pernicious effects of this form of gambling on the working and middle classes at a time when the practice was only beginning to become general. In Lancashire, at all events, women and wives led the van, and ruined their husbands, families, and friends. Perhaps worse evils have succeeded, but we think not. Nor is it easy to imagine much worse horrors than those of betting, as described in the interesting story of "Irkdale." Irkdale is a village lying out of Manchester, and here the characters principally assemble. The great man is Mr. Charles Herbert, of the Grange—a successful betting-man, who is therefore shunned, and who comes to a wretched fate in the end. But as Mr. Brierley is too sensible to hold a long brief against betting only, Herbert is made to be a villain of the deepest dye in various ways. The better interest centres in Jacob Robinson, of the "Odd House," an honest joiner, and honest and good man in every way, who opens the story by accepting the guardianship of a beautiful young girl from her father, a wandering stranger, who has seen very much better days. When the child has grown up she becomes a victim to the betting mania, through being cast off by the younger Herbert at a time when both he and his father are ruined through their general vices and backing the wrong horse. But, in the mean time, Jacob's son Dick, a man as honest and genuine as his father, has had various unacknowledged love-passages with his adopted sister; and, finally—although the author leaves the reader to guess—there is little room to doubt that all ends happily, leaving a new generation to inherit the virtues only of the old, and just a scrap of another generation still. The story, although elaborate and circumstantial, is yet quite transparent, but it has sufficient interest through its diversity of style and character. The heartiness and humour of the time, place, and people described seems to breathe with all the warmth of life; and, although the company goes down so low in the social scale as to include a "tripe and trotter merchant"—who, however, sanctifies matters by talking of everything from an aristocratic point of view—the society is always entertaining and picturesque. "Irkdale" will probably be considered the best book of the season by all those with sufficient local knowledge and interest to relish the quaint fun of "Tim Bobbin" and other Lancashire stories which have long been so successful.

The Conscript: a Tale of the French War of 1813. Translated from the French of M. ERCKMANN CHATRAIN. With a Frontispiece. Smith, Elder, and Co.

"The Conscript" must be called the hero—although he is as fine a coward as ever appeared in print—of a series of fascinating sketches of war and love, rather than of a fiction built up on ordinary circulating-library conditions. At the fortified frontier town of Phalsbourg the scene arises. News comes of that fatal "beginning of the end" of Napoleon, the retreat from Moscow; and immediately upon that comes the fresh conscription; and young Joseph, the watchmaker's apprentice, is drawn and sent to the wars, despite the fact of a little lameness in one foot. They were not particular to a shade in the '13 conscription. Joseph has more than the usual allowance of disinclination to be shot simply for the sake of glory, and, moreover, the Emperor's ambition tears him from the arms of the beautiful Catherine whom he is about to marry. But there is no help for it, and so Joseph wisely resolves to make the best of so unpleasant a bargain; and, upon the whole, conducts himself very well, and gains a fair share of credit. He goes through the affair of Lutzen and the three days of Leipzig, confining his accounts to the little that he saw, and not pretending to be a war historian. He fights well enough, but would rather run away, is wounded, cured in hospital, sent back to the wars, and finally returns to Phalsbourg, recognisable to nobody but his Catherine, but they marry immediately for all that. There is an air of reality about these sketches which makes them read like veritable autobiography, and that of a very interesting kind. The characters are numerous for a short story, sufficiently defined, and agreeable. The unhappy mothers who rail at the Emperor as they part from their sons; the worthy old watchmaker, who hates war but still inculcates honour and chivalry on the conscripts; the young enthusiasts, the grim old veterans, the cool surgeons, and others, seem to be a part of real life and present the horrors of war very completely. But, in face of its merits, it is astonishing how the book ever came to be published. It is anti-Napoleon in every page. The whole series of wars is arraigned as absolute murder for the sake of personal vanity and aggrandisement; and certain merits generally accorded to the first Emperor are never for a moment allowed to him here. True, the story is in autobiographic form; but few writers are able to conceal their own sentiments whilst they are putting sentiments in the mouths of others. (We know, for instance, what kind of man Shakespeare was.) And, although all this anti-war and anti-Napoleon is supposed to come from the conscript Joseph, in all probability M. Chatrain heartily agrees with his little runaway hero. But yet the book has passed Imperial inspection, 16,000 copies have been sold, and a sequel describing the conscript at Waterloo is promised. We shall be glad to see the second volume if it be as good as the first.

BOSTON, Lincolnshire, is likely to be the scene of a very hot contest in the coming general election. There are already four candidates in the field for the two seats—namely, Mr. Malcolm (Conservative) and Mr. Standland (Liberal), the sitting members; and Mr. Serjeant Pulling, and Mr. Parry, of Sleaford (Liberals). A fifth candidate, in the person of Mr. E. T. Gourley, Mayor of Sunderland, is expected to come forward as a Liberal Conservative. Mr. Parry, who it is believed has an excellent prospect of success, is intimately connected with the borough, is chairman of the railway connecting the town with the Midland system, and is a gentleman of talent, business habits, and great liberality of sentiment. He would make an excellent representative.

LORD ROBERT CECIL, M.P.

ROBERT ARTHUR TALBOT GASCOIGNE CECIL, VISCOUNT CRANBOURNE, are the names and style of the gentleman whose portrait we publish this week. He was, until lately, Lord Robert Cecil; but last week, by the death of his elder brother, he became Viscount Cranbourne, and heir apparent his father, the Marquis of Salisbury. The first wife of the Marquis, and mother of the noble Viscount, was the daughter of Bamber Gascoigne, Esq., and when the Marquis married that lady he added her maiden name to his own, as a memorial for ever that the Bamber estates had by this marriage come into the family of the Cecils. The Cecils are descended—that is, this branch of them—from Robert, Earl of Salisbury, the famous Minister of Queen Elizabeth. Of this notable statesman his biographer writes:—"He was of a cold-hearted and intensely selfish disposition, and remorselessly sacrificed every one who either interfered or appeared to interfere with his personal or public scheme." In short, a very tyrannical, self-willed gentleman; and, if our readers will take the trouble to make inquiries in the neighbourhood of Hatfield House, they will discover that the old Marquis is a chip off the old block—a splinter from the old rock, though somewhat rounded by the friction of the times. Viscount Cranbourne, too, as we all know, inherits in some degree the characteristics of his race. In Parliament he is haughty, overbearing, impatient of control, and exceedingly bitter. In his speeches, generally, he seems more disposed to wound his opponents than to debate the question in hand. More than once he has turned against his leader; and, last Session, he pursued and worried Mr. Lowe with such relentless bitterness that the House of Commons, carried away by the fury of the noble Lord, censured the Vice-President of the Board of Education, and thus compelled him to resign his post—albeit, as it afterwards turned out, the accusations of the noble Lord were not well founded. On the motion of Lord Palmerston, the House expunged the censure from its books; but nothing like a generous apology was made by the noble Lord. Viscount Cranbourne, by the grace of his father, who holds more than half the town in fee, is member for Stamford. Lord Robert is unquestionably a clever man. He is a good speaker, a man of extensive and varied acquirements, and, it is said, has aptitudes for business. Able, however, we cannot designate him. He has a quick, nimble intellect; but assuredly not a strong, capacious, comprehensive, logical mind. In politics he is of course, like all his family, a Tory. He calls himself a Conservative; but this is not a correct designation. Sir Robert Peel invented this political party title after the passing of the Reform Bill, to indicate that the Opposition would accept the change honestly but use its strenuous endeavours to oppose all further change in the same direction. Conservation, not retrogression, was the policy indicated and accepted. But the noble Viscount, like his father, is a genuine Tory, looking back with fond regret to the old times, and would restore them if he could. He was born in 1830. He came into Parliament first in 1853—without opposition, of course; for who would dream of opposing a Cecil at Stamford? The noble Lord, who had just come



LORD ROBERT CECIL (NOW LORD CRANBOURNE), M.P. FOR STAMFORD.

from Oxford, was heralded by Fame as the coming man—one who would shine brilliantly in the House and rise, the Fates being propitious, to great heights. But the promise made by Fame has not been exactly realised. He is a smart debater, but hardly brilliant; and as to the heights which Fame said he was destined to mount, he has scarcely taken one step upward yet. He has held no office; he has no followers in the House, and but little influence. It was thought at one time, before he was so well known, that he might rise to be the leader of the Conservative party, but all thought of this is gone. "Lead!" said one; "no, he will never lead, for he

never could serve." And this is the truth. The man who would rise to command must first learn to obey.

SUMMER IN CALCUTTA.

We—the English in India—do not call the seasons in that country by their reasonable names. We recognise but three, in fact: the hot weather, the cold weather, and the rains. The latter, beginning in June in most parts of the peninsula, occupy a considerable portion of the summer months; so that the dry summer sets in sooner than in western latitudes, and may be considered to commence with the end of March. Then it is that the mango-fish and the fruit from which it derives its name are in full perfection, and nearly every other production begins to deteriorate. Then it is, more especially, that the new importations of our countrymen and countrywomen, who have judiciously timed their departure from England so as to arrive at Calcutta in the cold weather, and who have hitherto treated the heat with scornful indifference, begin to acknowledge that even fresh constitutions from Europe are not proof against the inconveniences of the climate, and are as abased and cast down as the "old Indians" upon whom they have been bestowing their ridicule. Could there be any more striking picture of thorough submission than that which our artist has portrayed? Those four ladies—or, perhaps, we should say the three in the foreground, for the lady at the glass appears to be the head of the household and of longer standing in the country—have probably but very few months since sailed from England, and have "done" the overland route in a spirit of ostentatious patronage, with which their present condition but ill assorts. They may have been more or less indisposed in the Bay of Biscay or between Marseilles and Alexandria; but, after that, they have made light of the sun of Egypt; have condemned Suez principally for being dull; have refused to admit that the Red Sea was much hotter than an Eastern sea ought to be; have taken kindly to the moist beauties of Ceylon, and actually fallen in love with the Bay of Bengal for being so smooth as to allow dancing upon deck. Adorned in their lightest drapery—drawn forth upon the two days in the week when access is permitted from their luggage in the hold—they have bade the climate do its worst. Thus far, they have found it a delightful inducement to wear all their fairy finery from the first thing in the morning, and they have been assured by the little glasses in their cabins and the large glasses in the saloon that the principal effect of the heat, thus far, has been to give a delicacy to their still flesh complexions far from unbecoming, and so different from the positive coarseness produced by the sharp atmosphere of that dreadful Europe!

A day's sojourn at Madras has done a little towards disillusionising them; but, after all, they have come to the conclusion that the climate of the Carnatic is so tempered by water ices, pink or yellow, according to choice, as to be not much worse than that of the British ball-room; so even at this trying stage they have been consoled; and the jewellery, moreover, which the natives bring on board for such passengers as do not seek it on shore, is a source of excitement equal to several downward degrees of the thermometer. No; they have not yet admitted that India is hot, and when, after three days more of shipboard, they cast anchor at



"SUMMER IN CALCUTTA."—DRAWN BY J. H. CLARKE.

PARISIAN COMICALITIES. (DRAWN BY CHAM.)



What! you have come, with all the world, to the Dante festival? May I ask for whom you intend that magnificent bouquet?—Well, I thought I might meet with that Mme. Beatrix, of whom one hears so much.



In Algeria. Native friend to picturesque Arab.—My dear fellow, pray, come down. Fancy what a ridiculous figure you will cut on that donkey when the artist puts you in his sketch-book!



In consequence of a strike of the farriers, horses are compelled to put up with ordinary boots.

Calcutta, they have pronounced the place rather cold than otherwise; and colder than Madras it most certainly is. A very short time at Calcutta, where every day at this season sends the glass higher, removes the impression. But now they have a fresh defence against despair—they like the heat. Nothing could possibly make a place so pleasant as the reception that new comers—of the interesting sex, of course—receive in Calcutta. Everybody is so glad to see them; they have so many people calling upon them; they are asked to so many tiffin parties, dinner parties, and even balls, which are not yet abandoned for the season. Indeed, the popular idea in India is that, being already so hot, you cannot make yourself much hotter whatever you do; so people give themselves the benefit of whatever doubt exists on the subject, and dance as nearly all the year round as may be. Men, too, are so plentiful—as they always are where the military class are much represented—and have no stupid duties to perform in the middle of the day,

so that festivities never flag on their account, as they sometimes do in England.

But when summer really sets in, the new arrivals, though still enjoying themselves amazingly, are obliged to make one admission—that they cannot disport themselves with quite the same impunity in Calcutta as they could in London. They will not confess the fact out of doors, perhaps, lest they should be classed with the "old Indians;" but they "give way" dreadfully during the disengaged parts of the day, and lose their dignity sadly, as we see in the accompanying Engraving.

Our readers of the sterner sex must not suppose that this is a sort of scene which they would be likely to behold in Calcutta—the confidence is one which could have been induced only by a lady artist. Even the husband, or brother, or whatever he may be, whom you see in the verandah, would not presume to intrude; for in India a great many apartments are left open from the verandahs for the sake of air, which, being understood as private, are strictly con-

sidered in that light. Therefore it is that the ladies whom we are permitted to look upon in their unguarded moments have no notion of shutting themselves up in the solemn European manner. They have been out visiting, perhaps, the greater part of the afternoon, or have themselves received visitors at tiffin; and they are now recovering themselves, with the assurance that they will not be interfered with. Any caller at such an hour—five o'clock, or thereabouts—would most assuredly find the *durwaza buni*—i.e., the gate shut, the polite description of "not at home"—and it is too early for the regular demands of society. A lounge preparatory to the toilet, before the evening drive or ride, to be succeeded by another toilet for the inevitable dinner, thus becomes a luxury of luxuries which you must have been in Bengal to appreciate. Perhaps "lounge" is a mild word to describe the strenuous inactivity of our interesting friends; but it is not for us, in this our colder clime, to cavil at appearances which in the East are the most natural in the world. The lady at the



Dreadful fate of "L'Africaine," attacked and cut to pieces by hungry critic in want of a subject.



The directors of the latest bubble company overturning the porridge-pot, after pecking out all the meal.



Shabby young man, confidentially.—For what earthly reason should Monsieur pay to see "La Voleuse"? Here am I, who charge absolutely nothing. (Exit.)

glass, having been longer in the country, can afford to get her hair dressed at once; but her younger friends are more impressionable, and find that a lounging-chair or a position upon the floor—which the matting makes delightfully cool—is an indispensable preliminary for that ordeal. There is no more patient being upon earth, perhaps, than an Indian ayah or ladies'-maid. They will spend hours by the couches of their mistresses, fanning and soothing them; and one, we see, has brought the most "overcome" young lady a bottle of soda-water—a refreshment of such popularity in the East that the natives believe it to be the natural drink of the West, running free in our rivers and fountains.

Those are pleasant moments, but, unfortunately, cannot last long. It is obvious that the ladies cannot appear in the gay world with those abridged costumes and in so abandoned a state of hair. We will give them a quarter of an hour, say, and after that they will surrender themselves to their respective attendants, emerging soon, in irreproachable toilet, for the repose of the carriage or the activity of the saddle, in such a state of resplendent happiness as to make any number of conquests a matter of course. S. L. B.

PARISIAN SKETCHES.

OUR series of small Engravings are illustrations, in the French manner, of some of the latest events which have occupied the attention of the Parisian public, and may well be accompanied by the remarks of a French correspondent on some of the topics that are just now the subject of conversation in that lively capital, where novelties succeed each other so rapidly that nothing can remain even a "nine days' wonder." Our correspondent says:—

Now that the summer weather may be said to have fairly set in, the Paris season is nearly at an end, and people of fashion are leaving as fast as they can for the various watering-places, so that the French capital will soon resemble London in August. The fact is, that the season is a short one, for people do not arrive till February—an alteration which is said to be caused by the desire of the fashionable world to avoid the tremendous tax which their friends impose upon them in the shape of New-Year's gifts unless they keep out of the way. Then, again, the taste for field sports is rapidly spreading amongst the higher classes, many of whom shoot till the end of the sporting season, while some of them hunt the stag

arrayed in wonderful fancy dresses, and gallop up and down the forest-rides of Fontainebleau or Compiègne armed with enormous *cors de chasse*.

The wonderful progress of the French in "le sport" has been evident to all the world during the last month, and it has, no doubt, received a fresh impetus since the performances of Gladiateur and the excitement of the subsequent races at the Bois. It is true that at present the French make but poor hands at cricket, but they have at least had the satisfaction of organising a dog show in the Champs-Élysées, where a wonderful collection of animals was brought together (during the period the daily papers discussed the question of hydrophobia) and made the night, and the day too, hideous with their howlings in the very spot where M. Musard used to hold his concerts.

The topic of conversation at the commencement of the past month was the Dante festival, at which all sorts and conditions of people assisted, many of whom must certainly have supposed the poet to be either a living celebrity or a person only lately buried in Florence. One of the accompanying sketches illustrates, in the



At the Dog Show.—Under the circumstances, "Zemire" is scarcely equal to contest the grand prize.



Candidate for the prize for municipal sculpture.—I certainly engaged you, to pose for the city of Marseilles; but I'm afraid you don't look strong enough. Model.—Oh, never mind! Pose me for a faubourg of the city. That is just as good.

Concert at the Champs-Élysées, by honorary, but not free, members of the Musard Concerts.

lively Parisian manner, the accidental meeting of two individuals of this class in the Italian capital.

You will so soon have an opportunity of witnessing the performance of "L'Africaine" at Covent Garden (I hear it is to come out there early in July) that your own musical and dramatic critics will be able to express their opinion of it. As it has survived the fierce attacks of the press here, which is always hungry for subjects not liable to Government aversiveness, it is, I should imagine, sufficiently robust to withstand any adverse criticism.

The news of President Johnson's probable policy in America and the want of definite news as to the state of affairs in Mexico, have caused great excitement in commercial circles. The fluctuations of the Bourse have been a pretty good indication of the impolicy of the Government suppression of intelligence. With respect to other commercial enterprises, the tribe of promoters, directors, and speculators are here much as they are in other parts of the world; and it not unfrequently happens that, having once started a scheme, these astute individuals will wind it up for their own benefit—or, in other words, overturn the cauldron from which they have eaten the soup.

Of art-exhibitions, of course the principal has been the Salon des Beaux Arts of the present season; but, perhaps in consequence of the doings of certain iconoclast workmen who have lately been amusing themselves by knocking the noses off some of the municipal statues, there has been some demand for figures supposed to embody representations of our principal cities.

The Emperor's journey in Algeria, with all its attendant descriptions, illustrations, and caricatures, and all other topics of interest, have now, however, been superseded by that of the terrible condition to which M. Haussmann has reduced the streets, a state of things felt all the more severely since the cabmen and drivers of voitures have been "on strike" for several days past, and, being perfectly quiet, are utterly immovable until the company which employs them comes to terms. Under these circumstances and the consequent dearth of farriers, vehicles are becoming more scarce every day—a matter of less consequence since houses are being pulled down, streets are barricaded with building materials, and the Bois de Boulogne is almost deserted.

A new club—*très chic*—is being formed in a building at the corner of the Rue Royale, once the head-quarters of the Moutards, previous to their fusion with the Jockey Club.

The latest sensation is a new piece at the Ambigu, entitled "La Voluse d'Enfants," the scene of which is laid in London at the present day. The *dramatis personæ* include Lord Trevelian, who, wearing a mask and an evening dress, makes arrangements with La Voluse for the kidnapping of a baby. The kidnapper, who sends out a confidential villain to steal one from over the way while the servants are at tea, is afterwards transported, but coming back, after fifteen years, with the remark, "I return this instant from Botany Bay," reforms her character. She finds, in fact, that, by the intervention of some sailors, it is her own child she has stolen and sold. She gets engaged as nurse, companion, and instructress to her own daughter, now Lady Helene, saves her from danger by carrying her off to a "miserable réduit à Charing-cross," and at length dies only as everybody's happiness is consummated. In a scene supposed to represent a cellar of "St. Gilles," sailors appear, each with a fighting-cock under his arm, while the waiter is in Highland costume. "La Forêt d'Épine" (Epping Forest) is a charming scene between London and Richmond; in fact, for its amazing representation of London life and English localities, "La Voluse" may be said to be the most exciting entertainment now left in Paris.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

A CONTEMPORARY calls attention to the arrangement which seems to exist between the rival Italian Operas for producing novelties at each theatre on the same night. This is especially inconvenient to musical critics, who ought to have enough of what a speaker in the Prussian Chamber, the other day, called "healthy egotism" to protest against it energetically. It would be a most delightful thing to have two Italian Operas if each had its own repertoire; but the spectacle of two operatic managers endeavouring to ruin one another is a sad and unprofitable sight. Mr. Gye and Mr. Mapleson cannot engage the same singers; but they play the same stock operas, produce the same new operas, and give what Mr. Mapleson calls "special representations" the same evening. Since the production of "Medea," the week before last, at Her Majesty's, nothing new has been brought out at either of our operatic theatres until Saturday evening, when the long-expected Mdlle. Galetti made her first appearance at Covent Garden, while a "special representation" of "The Huguenots," with what, in some respects, was a new cast, took place at the Haymarket opera. As to the "special representation," its only fault was that the most important part in the work specially represented was very badly played. In other words, M. Jouslin assumed the character of Raoul. With this one exception, however, the cast was really admirable. Mdlle. de Murska undertook the part of Marguerite de Valois, which is scarcely worthy of her fine vocal and dramatic talent. Mdlle. Titieni appeared in her celebrated character of Valentine; Mdlle. Trebelli was the Page; Mr. Santley was De Nevers; and M. Rokitanaki, Marcel. The admirable chorus distinguished itself more even than usual, and in the "Santianplan" was encored.

While the "special representation" of "Les Huguenots" was taking place at Her Majesty's Theatre, the habitués of the Royal Italian Opera were assembled in great force to witness the début of Mdlle. Isabella Galetti in the character of Norma. Mdlle. Galetti, who has lately been singing at Milan, enjoys a great reputation, and is, indeed, an artist of the highest class. Her only deficiency is want of voice; perhaps the worst deficiency of all, for it cannot be supplied. It can, however, to some extent, be compensated for; and Mdlle. Galetti so often charms us by her expressive and truly pathetic singing, that we willingly forgive her for never astonishing us by any of these outbursts of passion in which Norma of greater physical means have sometimes indulged. Moreover, if her voice has lost power, it still retains much of its original beauty. On the other hand, Mdlle. Galetti is unfortunately obliged to transpire nearly all her music, some of her upper notes having entirely forsaken her. In fine, Mdlle. Galetti sings with admirable expression, but is wanting in force. She is graceful, does everything in good taste, and excites interest, but without ever striking the audience by a display of dramatic power. Norma is said to be Mdlle. Galetti's best part; but then the part itself is so admirable. We fancy Mdlle. Galetti will acquit herself very satisfactorily in whatever character she may assume of those usually allotted to the "robust soprano." She will thus fill a place in Mr. Gye's company which has wanted a fitting occupant for some time past. But she will cause no enthusiasm. She will never do for Norma, Lucrezia, and other characters of the same class, what Mdlle. Patti does for Amina, Adina, Linda, Rosina, and we do not know how many characters besides.

The scheme of the Handel Festival for the present year resembles very much the scheme of 1862. On the first day (Monday) "The Messiah" will be performed; on the third (Friday), "Israel in Egypt"; on the second (Wednesday), a miscellaneous selection—of course, entirely from the works of Handel. About the first and third days we need say nothing. As to Wednesday's selection, it includes, in the first place, a variety of pieces, chiefly choral, from "Saul." Then we are promised the brief but emphatic "Hallelujah"; the jubilant semi-chorus, "Welcome, mighty King"; the still more triumphant "David his ten thousands slew"; and the "Dead March." This selection from "Saul" also includes solo airs for soprano and contralto (Mdlle. Parepa and Mdlle. Sainton-Dolby). From "Samson"—an oratorio which Handel considered equal to his "Messiah"—three pieces are announced; each of the three an unflinching attraction. It is enough to name "How willing my paternal love" (Mr. Santley), "Let the bright Seraphim" (Mdlle. Adeline Patti), and the superb chorus, "Let their celestial concerts all unite." To the foregoing must be added the so-called Nightingale Chorus, "May no rash intruder," from "Solomon,"

which will afford an opportunity for *pianissimo* singing from an enormous body of voices only to be found at the Handel Festival; the stately Coronation Anthem, "Zadok the Priest," originally written for the coronation of George II. (1727); and a rich selection from the grand Jewish oratorio, "Judas Maccabeus," including the airs "Pious orgies" (Mdlle. Parepa), "Sound an alarm" (Mr. Sims Reeves), and "From mighty kings" (Mdlle. Adeline Patti); some of the most splendid choruses, and, most popular of all, the trio with chorus "See, the conquering hero comes" (solos by Mdlle. Patti, Mdlle. Parepa, and Mdlle. Sainton-Dolby). Here is a selection of almost unprecedented interest. But there still remain to mention "Love in her eyes sits playing," the most beautiful tenor air in "Acis and Galatea," and "Oh! ruddier than the cherry," the characteristic love-song of the giant Polyphemus.

The general musical arrangements, under Mr. Costa, without whose personal and active superintendence such a colossal undertaking as the Handel Festival would hardly be practicable, are to be much the same as they were three years since. The final rehearsal, at Exeter Hall, of the metropolitan contingent of the Handel Festival chorus, when many of the pieces selected for Wednesday were gone through, was more than satisfactory. In short, the repeated practices of this section of the chorus since the last festival have been of inestimable value. Altogether, the orchestra will number very nearly 4000, of whom about 500 will form the instrumental band. The country sends its best singers from all parts, and these too, we believe, have been diligently engaged during the interim in studying the music allotted to them for the festival.

At the Hanover-square Rooms, on Saturday last, Mr. Walter Macfarren gave his pianoforte performance, at which he played selections from the works of Beethoven, Mendelssohn, Bach, Kate Loder, G. A. Macfarren, and from his own compositions; one of which, "The Skylark," securing an encore. Mr. Macfarren was assisted by Mr. Ridley Prentice in a duo for two pianofortes, "Homage à Handel," by Moscheles. The room was crowded to excess.

AN ENGLISH ARTIST IN THE HANDS OF ITALIAN BRIGANDS.

A MR. W. R. OLIVER, a young artist, who for the last two or three years has been pursuing the study of his art in Italian scenery, has sent the following letter to his friends. The letter bears the postmark, "Albano, 7 Giu." and was written from Nemi, where he had been staying some few weeks, and from which place he started on the 30th of May last for a sketching excursion:—

I am writing this in bed and in pain, and so weak as hardly to be able to hold my pen, and I will tell you as shortly as possible what has happened that has laid me so low. I left Nemi the other day for one of the villages among the mountains, either Cora, or Ceprano, or Velletri, or somewhere by the borders of the Papal States, at the back of the hills where no one goes. I got a sort of farmer for a guide who was going some round on mules with my knapsack. I left the rest in the environs, as no carriage of any kind can anyhow get up the paths, and often there is not any path at all. It was Tuesday evening; we were going along a dreadfully uneven path round the edge of a hill, and I got tired of the everlasting jog of my mule, and so got off and started to go over the top of the hill to see the sunset on these wild mountains, and join my man on the other side. I got up to the top, and was walking over to see the path on the other side, when I was spied out by some of the blackguard brigands who infest these places. I did not see them until two fellows came behind me, and one seized my right arm and tried to send me back; but I stood firm, though it was a shock; and, at the same moment, I hit the other fellow with my left hand and sent him back; and then I got out my pistol and I fired it into the shoulder of the first while we got hold of each other; in fact, I had nearly done for him, but another fellow came up at the moment and stabbed me, and then I don't quite recollect how it all was, for we all three struggled with each other, as the one I had sent back with my left arm came up, and it was knives and scuffles; but I know I fired again, and hit, it seems, one in the hand, and fell, and we rolled over the rocks together, for I had been bleeding a great deal, and dislocated my shoulder in rolling over the stones, and was a good deal bruised; but I believe I should have beaten them, for we were all three down, but there were three guns levelled at my head, and a movement would have cost my life, so I gave in; though now I don't think they would have killed me if they could help it, because, seeing a stranger without baggage, their idea was to take me and get a ransom, which is what they nearly always do now. Then they all carried me, all over blood and in great pain, though I did not know at the time in the least where I was wounded; then we got up a sort of hole in the rocks, and an old woman—a filthy old beast—began to pull me about and stop my wounds; but I was in such an awful passion that I sent her over, and caught up a knife lying on the ground and made a desperate stab at the first fellow who had come up to me. But I had lost such a lot of blood that the exertion made me lose consciousness; but I came back again after a bit, and I let them bind me up, but my shoulder gave me the worst pain. I felt it was dislocated (it is set now, and is going on pretty well). However, I suppose I was so exhausted that, after a time, I fell asleep on the cloaks and things on a sort of mattress they put for me, and did not wake till next morning, and then I suffered horribly from the cuts on my shoulder; and the head man came up and we had a talk, in which I told him what a blackguard he was, &c.; and he, on his part, just summed it all up that, if within twenty-four hours I did not get 250 scudi (about £52), I should be shot. I told him the impossibility, but it was of no use; he said there was every possibility of messengers and arrangement. There was not a soul in Rome I knew, as all have gone away now. So there was nothing to do but to send to the farmer who brought me on the way—and who, by-the-by, bolted directly he heard the shots and row. I told him how he ought to have known that my baggage was worth more than the money, and I swore by the Madonna I would pay him; and so he set about to collect it, but he could only get about 200 scudi. It did not come until the morning after the next day, and the beggars said they would not take it; but after a bit they said they would let me go if I would hand over the 200 scudi and leave a hostage for the rest. I think they thought I should die, and be worth nothing. I was glad enough to send this proposal, and waited anxiously for the answer; and at last it came, saying that a man had consented to be my hostage for twenty scudi; and I got back yesterday. I'm writing about and sending for the other £12; but I don't at all know whom to send to, as if I write to anybody who is anything in authority they will certainly send some soldiers, and the moment there is an alarm the first thing my blackguards will do will be to shoot the man who is there in my stead, unless I rush back myself. I must get it somehow; but, in the mean time, I beg you, for God's sake, not to lose a moment, but to send me £50 in circular notes, or somehow, as quickly as possible, as I am in a dreadful state of anxiety. I am better, and out of danger; but my anxiety makes me worse, and I suffer a great deal. . . . Address thus: "Gennaro, per Nemi, Stati Pontifici." Send the money addressed here, where I have got back again.—The money was speedily sent him.

CONGLETON JUSTICE.—A singular illustration of the manner in which the laws of England are sometimes administered by country justices was afforded at Congleton a few days ago. A clergyman, who is also a magistrate of the county, charged a man named Ellis with obtaining alms by false representations. The prisoner had entered the clergyman's garden and asked for relief, on the ground that he suffered either from blindness or from a partial loss of sight. He was refused; and later in the day the prosecutor, who had subsequently seen him make a similar application to a lady, took him into custody, and—in the absence of a policeman—actually locked him up with his own hands. It was stated that the poor tramp was really suffering from defective vision, and that only the sum of three farthings was found in his pockets. The sapient magistrates before whom the case was brought actually sentenced the prisoner to two months' imprisonment with hard labour!

DARING HIGHWAY ROBBERY.—One of the boldest highway robberies which have occurred of late took place during Ascot races last week. A Mr. Mackay, of 24, Bryanston-square, left Ascot-heath on Tuesday evening and engaged a fly-driver to convey him to Bisham Abbey. While on the road towards Maidenhead the man suddenly turned the horse down a "blind" lane, and took up another man on his box. Shortly after this the new arrival deliberately entered the fly and calmly proceeded to rifle the pockets and person of Mr. Mackay of whatever valuables he could find. Having robbed the gentleman of a hunting watch, gold chain, bracelet, ring, necktie, fastener, silk umbrella, &c., the highwayman turned the unfortunate Mr. Mackay out of the fly into the road, and left him to his own resources, the two men, who were evidently accomplices, driving rapidly from the spot. It happened next morning that Mr. Mackay, on returning to Ascot, met the man who had acted as driver, and who calls himself Frank Wood. He was at once arrested by the Berks police, and, on being searched, the ring stolen from Mr. Mackay was found upon him. Mr. Inspector Reece, acting on certain information, dispatched a sergeant to a gipsy-van on Sunning-hill bog, belonging to a man named James Rowland, where Mr. Mackay's race-glass was found. Rowland, who is supposed to be the man who actually robbed Mr. Mackay, has absconded; but the police are on the look-out for him. In the mean time Wood has been taken before Mr. Crutchley, one of the county magistrates, and remanded, for the present, to give time for the capture of his accomplice.

THE FATAL ACCIDENT ON THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY.

THE Coroner, in summing up the evidence in this case, urged the jury to found their verdict upon it alone, dismissing from their minds anything which they might have heard out of that room. It was proved that all the ten persons who formed the subject of the present inquiry had come by their deaths by drowning or other injuries received by the train they were travelling by running off the up rails of the viaduct referred to by the witnesses, and it had also been proved that the train so ran off in consequence of two lengths of rail, together 42 ft. in length, and the timbers which supported them, having been temporarily removed. It appeared that Henry Benge, the ganger of the platelayers, was the party directing the work, and who, according to the regulations of the company, was responsible. Benge was a man of experience, and must have known how long such work would occupy, and that at least three quarters of an hour would be required to complete it. He with his men commenced the job at 2.51 in the afternoon, when the other train passed, and the tidal train was to follow at 3.18, or within twenty-eight minutes afterwards, and when it reached the spot where the rails had been taken up the work was not half done. Then it was shown that Benge had stated to Mr. Eborall, the traffic-manager, that he had made a mistake in looking at the time-table, and taking the time of the tidal train as set down for Saturday, the 10th, instead of for Friday 9th, the time when the train was due on Saturday being two hours later or more, and, therefore, he did not expect any train after the 2.51 until 4.15, which would have given him an hour and a half to do the work, which was sufficient. No one could imagine that he intended anything so diabolical as the wilful destruction of the train and the passengers in it; but they had it in evidence that the time when the train was expected was set down distinctly in the time-table, and it would be for the jury to judge whether that mistake did not amount to such gross carelessness as to render Benge criminally responsible for what had happened. By a rule of the company it was required that, when it was necessary to stop a train or engine, detonating-signals should be used; and by another rule it was required that, when a rail was taken up, or the road was disturbed in any way, such detonating-signals should be placed by the signalman on the rails at every 250 yards until he reached 1000 yards, where two were to be laid down, and the red (danger) flag shown. Five detonating-signals ought thus to have been laid down, and the danger-flag exhibited 1000 yards distant from the spot where the work was going on; and, had these precautions been observed, the train in all probability would have been stopped and the accident never have happened. That was the opinion of the Government inspector. But it appeared that the man went back only about 500 or 600 yards with the flag, and that no detonating-signals were used. It was also shown that, although the works at the viaduct had been going on for ten weeks, Benge had never used or applied for detonating-signals. That no accident happened before did not lessen the gravity of his offence. On the contrary, it was a question whether he, having neglected all the ordinary precautions (and it was shown that he had not even a watch), the gravity of his offence was not increased. It was attempted to be shown that Benge was an illiterate man and an ill-paid servant; but the opinion of the Government inspector was that he was a man fit to be employed upon such a duty, and, if otherwise, his unfitness would be a question for the Judge at the trial, and not for the jury now. The question for them was, whether they considered Benge's carelessness was the cause of the accident; if so, they would return a verdict of manslaughter against him. Then as to Mr. Gullimore, he was the person under whose general superintendence these repairs were being executed. He admitted that he did not inquire whether the fog-signals were used, and that he did not apply for any special order from the general manager calling the attention of the guards and drivers to the fact that these repairs were going on. If they were of opinion that he, knowing that the rule about fog-signals was habitually disregarded without calling attention, was guilty of such gross neglect as to make him criminally liable, they would find a verdict of manslaughter also against him. After referring to Wiles, the signalman, and Crombie, the driver, both of whom he generally exonerated from blame, he said the South-Eastern line hitherto had been singularly free from accident. The rules of the company had worked exceedingly well; and had they been adhered to in this instance there would, doubtless, have been no accident. It appeared to him, however, that official orders cautioning the drivers and guards whenever works of this kind were about to be undertaken should be issued, that the number of district inspectors should be increased, and that a more constant supervision should be exercised.

At twenty minutes past five the jury retired to consider their verdict, and in rather more than an hour and a half they returned, and the Rev. Edward Moore, the foreman, said—"Our verdict is one of manslaughter against Joseph Gullimore and Henry Benge."

The Coroner—How many of you agree to that?

The foreman—Twelve against Joseph Gullimore and sixteen against Henry Benge (sixteen being the number of the jury). I am desired by the majority of the jury to append this to our verdict:—"The jury, fully recognising the general sufficiency of the company's rules to ensure the public safety, yet strongly recommend that, when possible, notice should be given from a previous station of any works involving the breaking of the line."

The Coroner then made out his warrant for the committal of Mr. Gullimore and the foreman, Benge.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE WINGROVE COOKE.—The death of this gentleman, who was well known for his contributions to literature, occurred suddenly about eleven o'clock on Sunday forenoon. Mr. Cooke was attending to his duties as one of the Copyhold and Inclosure Commissioners, in St. James's-square, on Friday week; but, feeling unwell on Saturday, he absented himself. On Sunday morning he arose at his customary hour, and ordered a cup of chocolate, and while it was being prepared his bell rang violently, and he was found vomiting blood. Almost immediately afterwards he expired. Death resulted from the rupture of one of the large vessels of the lungs or heart.

IMPORTANT INVENTION.—The *Western Morning News* states that Mr. Gale, electrician, of Plymouth, has discovered a process by which powder can be rendered non-explosive, and its combustible properties restored when required. The discovery possesses every element of a practical invention. The process is simple and effective. It cannot injure the powder. The cost is very small, and it has the advantage of being readily applied. In five minutes a barrel of powder can be made non-explosive, and in another five minutes it can be restored to its original condition. We have seen gunpowder subjected to this process, and stirred with a red-hot poker without an explosion. If a shell burst in a store filled with the prepared powder, it would not fire it. The process can be readily applied to the largest or the smallest quantities, and it does not require any cumbersome apparatus. The invention will solve the serious difficulty which has been felt as to the storage of powder in time of peace, and in war it will avert the danger which now arises from the necessity of fighting in the neighbourhood of an explosive material.

THE LUXURY OF LITIGATION.—At the Preston Sheriff's Court, last week, a case was heard which had been before the Court of Queen's Bench, and was referred to the local Sheriff's Court for settlement. Messrs. Lang and Co., in 41, rubber manufacturers, Skinner-street, London, were the plaintiffs, and Mr. Julius Harris, proprietor of a fancy warehouse, Lime-street, Liverpool, was the defendant. Mr. Batt, of the firm of Messrs. Batt and Son, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. C. S. Samuel, barrister, of Liverpool, appeared for the defendant. The action was brought to recover the sum of £4 6s. 6d., and the defendant's plea was that the money had been tendered and refused, the fact being that the Post Office order for the amount had been tendered and objected to; but whether refused on the ground of its not being of sufficient amount, or because of its being a Post Office order, was the question in dispute. The Sheriff decided that the objection had been made to the amount and not to the order, which was therefore a legal tender. The jury accordingly found for the defendant, with costs. It is understood that the action will be taken to a higher court.

STOOPING FROM AN EXALTED POSITION.—A small manufacturer, of Desborough, Northamptonshire, named Riley, lately resolved to marry an attractive and promising young woman in his employment, named Mary Ann Paine. Instead of proceeding with the delicate affair in the ordinary manner, he caused considerable amusement by publishing a manifesto on the subject, stating his reason for the step, and indicating the line of courtship he had decided upon pursuing. He announced in the columns of the local press that the marriage would take place in May next, and that in the mean time the object of his affections would be put under the guardianship of a Christian lady, to be educated to something of a level with himself; "for," as he elegantly and modestly puts it, "of course, to unite myself to this young woman now would be very foolish indeed, I having been favoured with a good education and cultivation, she an uncultured factory girl!" Was this, the Christian lady, duly advertised for, has doubtless cropped up, and the favoured of Mr. Riley is under cultivation. He promises that while undergoing the process she shall "have a very voluminous correspondence from myself." Lastly, Mr. Riley informs the public that he has ordered a copy of the paper containing his statement to be sent to each person in his employment.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—The continued absence of rain, though highly favourable for haymaking, has not been altogether desirable for other crops. Accounts from some quarters bring complaints of the want of moisture, and oats are said to be suffering from that cause. The wheats are everywhere in full ear, and are already "in bloom," in numerous instances. Just now, therefore, rain, though wanted for the pastures, and for the roots, beans, peas, and oats, would be prejudicial to the wheat, and, if continuous, to the hay harvest. A few smart showers, succeeded by bright weather, would be universally acceptable. Upon all sides the opinion prevails that the harvest will be unusually early. The prospects, on the whole, are extremely promising; but it seems to be generally admitted that the wheat crop will certainly not be equal by a long way to that of last year. The reports from the hop districts are, on the whole, extremely satisfactory. The change in the temperature during the last few days, and the north-east winds have checked the rapidity of growth stimulated by the previous warmth. The bine is strong and vigorous, and the "enemies" of the hop plant have up to the present time been unwontedly merciful in their attacks. At present matters look well for a good crop.—*Sussex Advertiser*.

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LIFE, FIRE, and GUARANTEE.—The Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Company was held June 1, H. WICKHAM, Esq., M.P., in the chair.

Extract from the Report.

Premiums on the new life and guarantee policies issued during the year 1864 amounted to .. £23,149 16 6
Premiums on fire insurance from June last .. 13,359 17 11
The gross amount actually received in premiums during the year was .. 169,058 12 7
The life and guarantee claims paid during the year 1864 .. 86,717 4 10
Increase in the assets of the society .. £2,925 18 10

The Union of this Society and the British Nation Life Assurance Association.

Subscribed capital is raised to upwards of .. £700,000 0 0
Annual income to upwards of .. 300,000 0 0
The premium income from new business during the last two months, at the rate of more than per year .. 50,000 0 0

Forms of proposal and prospectus may be obtained from the Head Office, 2, Waterloo-place, Pall-mall; and 69, King William-street, E.C., London.

BANK OF NEW ZEALAND.
BANKERS TO THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT OF NEW ZEALAND, THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OF AUCKLAND, CANTERBURY, OTAGO, &c., &c.

CAPITAL, £500,000. RESERVE FUND, £100,000.

Branches and Agencies in New Zealand.

Auckland	Napier	Wanganui	Queenstown
Russell	Wellington	Dunedin	Timaru
Blenheim	New Plymouth	Dunstan	Tokomairiro
Christchurch	Ngaruawahia	Dunstan Creek	Waikanae
Dunedin	Oamaru	Hamilton	Waikanae
Invercargill	Pictou	Hyde	Wakatipu
Kalapoi	Riverton	Manurewa	Wetherstone
Timaru	Waimate	Waimate	Waimate

This Bank GRANTS DRAUGHTS on any of the above-named places, and transacts every description of Banking business connected with New Zealand, on the most favourable terms.

The London Office RECEIVES DEPOSITS at interest for fixed periods, on terms which may be learned on application.

No. 50, Old Broad-street, London, E.C. J. L. WORTHY, Managing Director.

ACCIDENTS TO LIFE or LIMB, in the
Field, the Streets, or at Home.

An Annual Payment of £3 to £5 to the RAILWAY PASSENGER ASSURANCE COMPANY secures £1000 in case of Death or £45 per Week while laid up by injury.

For particulars apply to the Clerks at the Railway Stations, the Local Agents, or at the Offices, 64, Cornhill, and 10, Regent-street.

W. J. VIAN, Secretary.

GLASS, CHINA, and EARTHENWARE.
SHOW-ROOMS.—NOTICE OF REMOVAL from 147, HOUNDSDITCH, in consequence of the late Fire.—J. DREYFUS and SONS beg to inform their friends, merchants, and the trade, that they have removed to their temporary SHOW-ROOMS, 16 and 17, COMMERCIAL-STREET, WHITECHAPEL.

BEFORE YOU FURNISH HAVE AN
ESTIMATE from, or visit the Establishment of, BRANBY BROTHERS, Furniture, Patent Bedstead, and Bedding Manufacturers, Upholsterers, Carpet Factors, and complete House Furnishers, 131 and 133, Old Kent-road, London, E.C. (next Bricklayers' Arms-station). All goods warranted, and delivered free to any house in the kingdom. Established 1823.

THE "ARIEL" MANTLE, SHAWL, and
SWISS MANTILLA.—These elegant novelties for the present season can be purchased only of FARMER and ROGERS, 173, 175, 179, Regent-street.

India, China, French, Paisley, Norwich, and Fancy Shawls, from 1 guinea to 300 guineas.

IRISH LINENS, direct from Belfast, at
Manufacturers' Prices.

JAMES LINDSAY and CO.

will forward, carriage paid on parcels of 45 and upwards, Single and Double Damask Table Cloths, Napkins, Diapers, Family Linens, Sheetings, Pillow Cases, Towels, Huckaback and Flannel Towellings, Glass Cloths, Pantry Towels, &c., &c.; Ladies' and Gentlemen's Lawn and Cambric Handkerchiefs.

Patterns and Price-list post-free.

James Lindsay and Co., 18, Donegall-place, Belfast.

GENT'S WHITE PAPER NECK-TIES
and SCARFS, at 2s. per dozen, single; 2s. 6d. per dozen twofold; 3s. per dozen, threefold. A CHANGE FOR ONE, PENNY. Colours in the Newest Design. In boxes of 12 dozen. Carriage paid to the principal towns at 4d. per dozen extra. All orders (pre-paid) to J. GLADWIN, Papermaker, Kew, near Richmond.

ROWLANDS' MACASSAR OIL.—This elegant and fragrant Oil is universally in high repute for its unprecedented success in promoting the growth, restoring, preserving, and beautifying the Human Hair. Its invaluable properties have obtained the patronage of Royalty, the Nobility, and the Aristocracy throughout Europe. Price 2s. 6d. 7s. 10s. 6d. (equal to four small), and 21s. per bottle. Sold by Chemists and Perfumers.

* * * Ask for "Rowlands' Macassar Oil." *

BROWN and POLSON'S
PATENT CORN FLOUR.
Packets, 5d.

Warranted perfectly pure.

Each packet bears the makers' signatures, "John Brown," "John Polson," as cheap qualities are sometimes urged upon purchasers instead of Brown and Polson's.

SAUCE.—LEA and PERRINS'
WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE,
pronounced by Connoisseurs to be
"The only Good Sauce."

None genuine without name on wrapper, label, bottle, and stopper.

Sold by Grocers and Blackwell, Barclay and Sons, and Grocers and Olives universally.

REAL INDIAN TUSSORES
and RUMCHUND CORAHS.

Just received, a perfectly new Stock of the above, recommended as the fashionable Dress for Morning and Seaside Costume.

Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

FOR YOUNG LADIES.
Beautifully bright, Checked, and Striped SILKS, in perfectly new Colours, made expressly to our order, price from

£1 15s. 6d. Full Dress.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street, W.

LYONS LEVANTINE FOULARDS
of the most improved manufacture, the wear of which cannot be surpassed. The most fashionable article for the present season for ladies' morning suits, including great variety of design in Black and Coloured Grounds.

Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

SILKS for SUMMER.
New Colours in Rich Plain Silks, including our well-known make of Glacé, Pout de Soie, and Drap de Lyons.

from £2 15s. 6d. to 5 guineas extra Full Dress.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

PLAIN, STRIPED, OR BROCHE
RICH SILK GRENADINES,
adapted for Dinner, Evening, or Ball Dresses.

10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 14s. 6d., 16s. 6d., 18s. 6d., 20s. 6d., 22s. 6d., 24s. 6d., 26s. 6d., 28s. 6d., 30s. 6d., 32s. 6d., 34s. 6d., 36s. 6d., 38s. 6d., 40s. 6d., 42s. 6d., 44s. 6d., 46s. 6d., 48s. 6d., 50s. 6d., 52s. 6d., 54s. 6d., 56s. 6d., 58s. 6d., 60s. 6d., 62s. 6d., 64s. 6d., 66s. 6d., 68s. 6d., 70s. 6d., 72s. 6d., 74s. 6d., 76s. 6d., 78s. 6d., 80s. 6d., 82s. 6d., 84s. 6d., 86s. 6d., 88s. 6d., 90s. 6d., 92s. 6d., 94s. 6d., 96s. 6d., 98s. 6d., 100s. 6d.

Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

ALL THE CHOICE DESIGNS IN
NEW ORGANDIE MUSLINS.
British, French, and Swiss Printing.

8s. 6d., 10s. 6d., 12s. 6d., 14s. 6d., 16s. 6d., 18s. 6d., 20s. 6d., 22s. 6d., 24s. 6d., 26s. 6d., 28s. 6d., 30s. 6d., 32s. 6d., 34s. 6d., 36s. 6d., 38s. 6d., 40s. 6d., 42s. 6d., 44s. 6d., 46s. 6d., 48s. 6d., 50s. 6d., 52s. 6d., 54s. 6d., 56s. 6d., 58s. 6d., 60s. 6d., 62s. 6d., 64s. 6d., 66s. 6d., 68s. 6d., 70s. 6d., 72s. 6d., 74s. 6d., 76s. 6d., 78s. 6d., 80s. 6d., 82s. 6d., 84s. 6d., 86s. 6d., 88s. 6d., 90s. 6d., 92s. 6d., 94s. 6d., 96s. 6d., 98s. 6d., 100s. 6d.

Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

ALSO SEVERAL HUNDRED PIECES OF
LAST YEAR'S PRINTED MUSLINS,
Finest Quality and Designs, equal to new.

An endless variety of patterns (at the reduced price) post-free.
PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

Now ready, at reduced prices, all the New Patterns in
PRINTS, BRILLIANTS, and PIQUES,
for Ladies' Morning Dresses.

An endless variety of patterns post-free.
PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

EVERY NEW COLOUR IN THE
ARABIAN GLACÉS,
for Ladies' Dresses and Jackets complete.

A most useful and desirable fabric either for Walking or Travelling Dress.

Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

A Choice Assortment of the
NEW PRINTED ARABIAN GLACÉS,
in every variety of style, either in white or coloured grounds.

from 14s. 6d. to 31s. 6d. the Full Dress.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

GINGHAMS and COLOURED LAWNS
for Ladies' travelling, morning, and seaside Dresses.

12s. 6d. the Dress, in plain colours, checks or stripes.
A large collection of Patterns free.
PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

A CAREFULLY SELECTED VARIETY OF
CHEAP SUMMER DRESSES.
A new series of colours in the Plain Mexican Cloth.

14s. 6d. Full Dress.
Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

WHITE MUSLIN ROBES.
Now in great demand, Tamboured Dresses, 7s. 9d. each.

Cross-over Stripe, 6s. 6d. to 9s. 9d. the Full Dress.
Some very rich White Grenadine Robes, from 22s. 9d. to 3 guineas.

Patterns free.
PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street, W.

AN UNPRECEDENTED DEMAND for
MANTLES in LIGHT FABRICS has led to a corresponding preparation. PETER ROBINSON is now in a position to offer for selection the largest Stock ever seen in one Establishment. They are marked at prices with a view to effect a clearance before the close of the season.

The Illustrated Manual of Fashion post-free on application.
PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street, W.

A LARGE NUMBER OF SILK MANTLES
of the Newest Shapes and very rich qualities have been recently purchased in Paris and are now being offered at very reduced prices.

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SEVERAL THOUSANDS TO SELECT FROM.
LACE SHAWLS and MANTLES,
from 12s. 6d. to 25 guineas.

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FOR WEDDING DRESSES.
PETER ROBINSON invites special attention to this branch of his Silk Department, containing a magnificent collection of Moires Antiques, Satins, Plain and Fancy Silks, of every modern make, produced, to our order, by the most eminent manufacturers in Lyons, expressly for bridal costume.

Patterns free.—PETER ROBINSON'S, 103 to 108, Oxford-street.

NICHOLSON'S NEW SUMMER SILKS.
200 Patterns—representing £70,000 worth of new Silks—post-free on application.

50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.
Established 21 years.

NICHOLSON'S New CHECKED and
STRIPED SILKS, at 1 guinea, £1 5s. 6d., and 14 guineas the Dress.

Plain-coloured Glacé, 1s. 3d. per yard. Moire Antiques, from £1 15s. 6d. the Dress.

Black Silks, from 18s. the Dress.

French Foulard Washing Silks, 30 inches wide, 25 colourings, all at 2s. 6d. per yard.

A large parcel of last year's Silks, from 1s. 6d. to 6s. a yard, half their original price.

For patterns write to NICHOLSON'S, 50 to 52, St. Paul's-churchyard.

DO YOU WISH YOUR CHILDREN
WELL DRESSED?—Boys' Knickerbocker Suits in Cloth, from 15s. 9d. Useful School Suits, from 15s. 9d. Patterns of the Cloth, directions for making, and 45 Engravings of New Dresses, post-free.

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FURNISH YOUR HOUSE with the best
Articles at DEANE'S IRONMONGERY and FURNISHING WAREHOUSE. Established A.D. 1700. New Illustrated Catalogue and Priced Furnishing List gratis and post-free.

Deane and Co. (the Monument), London Bridge.

THIS SEASON'S FASHIONS IN DRESS.
LADIES and the PUBLIC visiting London are respectfully invited to inspect our STOCK of SUMMER PURCHASES, consisting of all the LATEST NOVELTIES in DRESS, of British and Foreign Manufacture.

Wide-wide BLACK GLACÉS, at 2s. 6d. and 2s. 11d. GROS GRAINS, and DUCAPES, of the best manufacture, purchased previous to the late advance.

Wide-wide STRIPED SILKS, new Colours, 25s. 6d. the Dress of 12 yards.

RICH CHENE SILKS, wide width, 38s. 6d. the Dress of 12 yards, worth 50s.

All the LATEST FASHIONS in JACKETS and MANTLES for Summer Wear.

PAISLEY, CASHMERE, and LACE SHAWLS, in all the latest Designs.

PLAIN and PRINTED ALPACA LUSTRES, 8s. 11d., 10s. 9d., and 12s. 9d. the Full Dress.

(now much in demand.)

A choice assortment of Embroidered and Braided Made-up Dresses, from 18s. 9d. to 2 guineas; with Jacket, complete, from 25s. 9d.

A large assortment of GRENADINE DRESSES, from 8s. 11d. to 31s. 6d. (much under the regular price).

Ribbons, Gloves, Hosiery, Trimmings, Haberdashery, Parasols, &c., &c.

FAMILY and COMPLEMENTARY MOURNING.
Drapers, Milliners, and Dressmakers supplied with cut lengths at Trade Price.

Close on Saturdays at Four o'clock.

JAMES SPENCE and CO., Wholesale and Retail Silkmercers, Drapers, &c., 77 and 78, St. Paul's-churchyard, E.C.

BOWS, Plaits, Braids, Bands, Wigs, Fronts,
&c., and every other description of Ornamental Hair, of the first quality, of COLLEY, Perfumer, Hairdresser, and Shampooer, 28, Bishopsgate-street Within. Hair-cutting, 6d.

NEW SUMMER SILKS.
Patterns post-free.

New Stripes and Checks, 1 guinea Full Dress.

Quantities of New Check Silks for Young Ladies, £1 5s. 6d., £1 7s. 6d., and £1 9s. 6d.

Rich Coloured Ottoman Corded Silks, 14 guineas, in appearance worth £3.

All the New and Pretty Patterns.

Also the New Colours in Glacé, Taffeta, and Armoires, £1 13s. 6d., £1 15s. 6d., and £2 5s.

Plain Glacé, 20 new shades, from 2s. 6d. per yard.

An immense stock of French Fancy Silks, all at 2 guineas, worth £3.

Rich Broché and Chêne Glacés and Antiques, 3 guineas to 5 guineas.

Fashionable Silks in new Styles, very elegant, 24 and 44 guineas.

All the new Made-up Silk Skirts and Jackets, 24 to 15 guineas.

Moire Antiques, any Colour, very handsome, 3 guineas, unequalled under £2.

Rich Lyons Taffeta and Broché Silks, £1 13s. 6d. to 24 guineas.

Thousands of Wedding Silks, very new, £1 5s. 6d. to 5 guineas.

Fancy Silks, last year's patterns, are selling from 1 to 3 guineas, worth £3.

AMOTT and COMPANY, CRYSTAL WAREHOUSE, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

BLACK SILKS EXTRAORDINARY.
Bright, Wide, and Durable, for One Sovereign.

Rich Black Gros Grains, £1 5s. 6d., worth 2 guineas.

Rich Black Lyons Silks, 14 guineas.

Rich Black Pout de Soie, £1 15s. 6d.

Rich Black Drap de Lyon, £1 15s. 6d.

The New Grand Old Silks, £2 5s.

Hundreds of Black Moire Antiques, £1 10s. 6d., worth 4 guineas.

AMOTT'S SILK WAREHOUSE, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

NEW SUMMER DRESSES.
(The New Norwich Zeelika, 8s. 11d., 12 yards.)

The New Drap de Lyon, new 7s. 11d., 12 yards.

Rich Ferruvian Espingles, 8s. 11d., 12 yards.

Hundreds of Summer Grenadines, 10s. 6d. per yard.

The New Grenadine Algeria, 12s. 6d. Full Dress.

The New Chêne Roubair Pekin, 10s. 9d., 12 yards.

Plain Fashionable Glacé Alpaca, all the New Colours, 12s. 9d., 12 yards.

Rich Alexandrian Chêne, a pretty Summer Dress 14s. 9d., 12 yards.

Rich Belgian Poplins, very silky, 16s. 9d., 12 yards.

The Popeline Ottoman Alhambra, brilliant, new, and rich, 1 guinea 10s. 6d., 12 yards.

The New Grand Old Silks, extra wide, suitable for Suits, £1 5s. 6d., and 14 guineas.

Hundreds of New Summer Petticoats, 1s. 9d. and 1s. 3d. per yard wide.

Thousands of the New Muslins, 6d. to 1s. per yard.

Hundreds of new Patterns, 6d. to 1s. per yard.

In all the new styles, from 6s. per yard.

All the new styles in made-up Skirts, elegant and effective, at moderate charges.

AMOTT and COMPANY, CRYSTAL WAREHOUSE, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

DRAWING-ROOM CURTAINS
EXTRAORDINARY.

2200 Pairs, 6d., 10s. 6d., 15s. 6d., and 24s. 9d., worth double the money, now selling by AMOTT and COMPANY, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

BLACK LACE SHAWLS Extraordinary.
The Stock of a Manufacturer in difficulties.

Lace Shawls, all Silk, originally 15s. and 30s., are now being sold at 3s. 11d. and 16s. 9d.

AMOTT and COMPANY, 61 and 62, St. Paul's-churchyard.

FRENCH PRINTED MUSLINS.—SEWELL
and CO. have purchased from the Compagnie Lyonnaise, Paris, upwards of 1000 Printed Muslin Dresses. The high reputation of their goods needs no comment. Price 1s. to 1s. 6d. per yard; original prices, 3s. and 2s. 50c. per metre.

COMPTON HOUSE, FRIETH-STREET, SOHO-SQUARE.

MOIRES ANTIQUES.—SEWELL and CO.
have the largest Selection of Spitalfields Moire Antiques, in White, Black, and all the new Colours, at 4s. 6d. the Full Dress.

Compton House, Frieth-street; and Old Compton-street, Soho, W.

MOURNING.—Untearable Black Baréges,
Grenadines, &c., 12s. 6d. Full Dress. The New Crapè Laine, Tambores, Muslins, &c., from 2s. 6d. Full Dress. Patterns free.—BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

AS FINE AS HUMAN HAIR, Three for 1s.,
post-free, invisible HAIR-NETS, in any colour; the new Firm Silk-Hair-Nets, 1s. 6d.; Chénille ditto, 1s. 6d. 3s. Post-free for Sticks.—BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent-street, London.

SUMMERWEAR.—GAZE DECHAMBERY.
5s. 9d. for 12 yards, at 5s. 9d. per yard. These beautiful dresses are well adapted for the hot weather, and are now selling at BAKER and CRISP'S, 198, Regent-street. Patterns free.

FETES, &c.—2000 Embroidered in Wool
(Colours) beautiful clear MUSLIN DRESSES, 6s. 6d. each, worth 12s. 6d. Patterns free. This is the cheapest lot we have had for years.—BAKER and CRISP, 198, Regent-street.

LUDGATE-HILL RAILWAY.
(now opened).

JOHN HARVEY and SON, Ludgate-hill.

SILKS, DRESSES, MANTLES, FAMILY LINENS.

NEW SILKS.—PATTERNS FREE.
New Checked Glacé, 14 Yards, £2 2s.

Patterns of Rich Silks.

JOHN HARVEY and SON, Ludgate-hill.

BLACK FIGURED SILKS.
Patterns free.

A large assortment of New Patterns, £2 5s. 6d. for 14 yards.

Black Gros Grains, Black Gros de Seins.

JOHN HARVEY and SON, Ludgate-hill.

LENO and MUSLIN CURTAINS.—Double
bedders, 4 yards long, 12s. 6d. per pair. A cheap lot of New Patterns, 12s. 6d. 4 yards long, 12s. 6d. per pair.

JOHN HARVEY and SON, Ludgate-hill.

FAMILY LINEN DEPARTMENT.
JOHN HARVEY and SON, Ludgate-hill.

Linen and Cotton Sheetings, best makes, all widths, Irish and Scotch Table Linen, Napkins, and Slips, Made and Marked with Crest or Initial, and Warranted for Wear.

FOR FAMILY MOURNING,
PETER ROBINSON'S, of Regent-street, will be found the most advantageous and economical Warehouse in England. Goods may be obtained made up ready for instant wear, or can be purchased by the yard. Goods sent free for inspection.

The Court and General Mourning Warehouse, 256 to 262, Regent-street, London.

WIRE-GROUND BLACK GRENADINES
and BARÉGES. The improved makes introduced by PETER ROBINSON, of Regent-street, excel all others for strength and beauty of finish.

Patterns free.

The Court and General Mourning Warehouse, 256 to 262, Regent-street, London.

BLACK SILKS.—Patterns free.
Good useful Black Silks, from 30s. to 50s. the Dress.

Superior and most enduring qualities, from 3 to 6 guineas.

At PETER ROBINSON'S, of Regent-street.

SILKS MUCH UNDER PRICE.
ALEXANDER ALLAN and CO. invite inspection of the following very cheap lots—Striped and Checked Fancy Silks, in all colours, at 2s. 2s. 6d., and 2s. 6d.; a great variety of very rich ditto, at 2s. 6d. and 2s. 11d.; general price 3s. 9d. Rich Figured Silks, Satins, and Moire Antiques, 27 inches wide, at 34 guineas the Robe, greatly under value.

Rich Glacé Silks, from 18s. 9d. per yard. A. A. and Co. are also showing a large assortment of Grenadines, Muslins, Shawls, Mantles, Ribbons, Lace, and Fancy Goods, all much under present value.—69 and 70, St. Paul's-churchyard.

NEW FRENCH SILKS, in COLOURS and
BLACK, at 2s. 6d. per yard, made of bright Italian Silk, with the guarantee for durability of eminent firms in Paris and Lyons. The Silk Department includes all the richest and most costly productions.

HARVEY and CO., Lambeth House, Westminster Bridge, S.

CROQUET.—Nice Present to Children.
PARKINS and GOTTOS 15s. set of Croquet, the cheapest in London, sent into the country, carriage-paid, on receipt of P. O. order.—PARKINS and GOTTOS, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, W.

CROQUET, at 15s., 18s., 21s., 25s., 30s., 35s.,
42s., and 63s. the SET, with book of rules. Any set sent, carriage-paid, to any railway station upon prepayment.

PARKINS and GOTTOS, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, W.

FIRST-RATE SET OF CROQUET, full
size, 30s., with book of rules, sent, carriage-paid, to any railway station in England upon prepayment.

PARKINS and GOTTOS, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, London.

8 SHOWROOMS for BIRTHDAY, WEDDING,
and CHRISTENING PRESENTS, containing an immense variety of useful and ornamental Articles especially selected and adapted for the purpose, at very moderate prices.

PARKINS and GOTTOS, 24, 26, 27, and 28, Oxford-street, London.

PORTRAIT ALBUMS, to last for years,
bound in a superior manner, with Leather Joints, plain and elegantly mounted, in great variety, at moderate prices. A choice of 3000.—PARKINS and GOTTOS, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, W.

PURSES, pocket-books, cigar-cases,
card-cases, wallets, opera-glasses, scent-bottles (double and single), pencil-cases, fans, note-cases, &c., the largest Stock in London. N.B. Choice articles selected and sent post-free to the country upon prepayment.—PARKINS and GOTTOS, 25, Oxford-st.

500 DRESSING-CASES and DRESSING-
BAGS, of the best manufacture, and fitted in the most complete manner for ladies or gentlemen. DESPATCH-BOXES, INKSTANDS, ENVELOPE-CASES, BOOK-SLIDERS, RETICULES, PURSES, BLATTING-BOOKS, &c. The public supplied at TRADE PRICES.—PARKINS and GOTTOS, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, London.

15,000 BIBLES, PRAYER-BOOKS, and
CHURCH SERVICES, in every variety of type and binding. Suitable for presents.

PARKINS and GOTTOS Bible Warehouse, 25, Oxford-street.

120 SHEETS of NOTE-PAPER for 6d.,
120 thick ditto for 1s.; 120 sheets ditto, black-bordered, for 1s.; 250 useful Envelopes for 9d.; 1000 extra large size for 4s. 6d.

PARKINS and GOTTOS, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, W.

25 MILLION ENVELOPES Sold Annually
at PARKINS and GOTTOS. An excellent quality at 5s. the 1000; extra thick ditto, at 4s. 6d. per 1000.

Parkins and Gotto, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, W.

STRAW WRITING-PAPER (PARKINS and
GOTTOS). Pleasant to write upon than any other. Has a hard, smooth surface, well adapted for the steel pen, and cheaper than any other writing-paper, being only 3s. the ream of 30 quires. Parkins and Gotto, Paper and Envelope Makers, 25, Oxford-street.

360,000 WRITING-CASES, at 2s. each,
have already been sold. The Society of Arts awarded the prize of 30 Guineas for this case, for its utility, durability, and cheapness. Sent free by post upon receipt of 2s. stamps.

PARKINS and GOTTOS, 24 and 25, Oxford-street, London, W.

GARDNERS' LAMPS.
GARDNERS' CHANDELIERS.
GARDNERS' DINING-ROOM SERVICES.
GARDNERS' DRAWING-ROOM CLOCKS.
GARDNERS' TABLE GLASS.
GARDNERS' PLATED GOODS.

GARDNERS', 453 and 454, STRAND,
Four Doors from Trafalgar-square.
Illustrated Catalogue post-free.

SLACKS' FENDERS and FIREIRONS.
Every New Design always on Show.

Black Fenders, 3s. 6d. to 6s.
Bronzed Fenders, 10s. to 30s.
Bright Steel and Ornamental, 60s. to 120s.
Bed-room Fireirons, 3s. to 5s. 6d.
Drawing-room Ditto, 10s. 6d. to 60s.
Improved Coal-boxes, 4s. 6d. to 30s.
Dish Covers, the set of six, 18s.

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